

# THE TIMES



## Policewoman's killer goes free at end of St James's siege

### Gaddafi calls off 'hit squads' for fear of sanctions

● Action by Libyan "hit squads" in Europe has been suspended after the siege at the People's Bureau in London  
 ● The funeral service at Salisbury Cathedral for Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher was attended by 600 Metropolitan police officers  
 ● Mr Oliver Miles, Britain's Ambassador to Libya, flew out with staff members after a two hour airport wait. Back page  
 ● The police may be allowed to search diplomatic bags for guns and explosives in defiance of the Vienna Convention. Page 2

By John Witherow and Stewart Tendler

Libya is understood to have ordered its so-called "hit squads" in Europe to suspend action against exiles after the siege at the Libyan People's Bureau in London ended yesterday with the killer of Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher walking free.

A Libyan diplomat at an overseas bureau said instructions were sent from Tripoli on Thursday ordering all action against Colonel Gaddafi's opponents to stop until further notice.

At the same time senior diplomatic staff from the bureau are being recalled to Tripoli for consultations. The talks are understood to involve mapping out a strategy to lessen the adverse publicity that Libya has received during the 11-day siege at James's Square.

A Libyan source in London said Colonel Gaddafi was alarmed at the possibility of European Economic Community sanctions against Libya, if any other attacks took place and wished to counterbalance what he called "British propaganda".

The source said he expected the suspension of action might last a few months until the international concern over the shooting has subsided.

The siege, which started with a hail of automatic gunfire on April 17, ended quietly yesterday when 30 Libyans men emerged into bright sunshine only hours before the funeral service for WPC Fletcher at Salisbury Cathedral.

One of the Libyan diplomats who has acted as an intermediary throughout the siege escorted them out in groups of five at 15-minute intervals. They walked out in single file without glancing at the spot where WPC Fletcher was shot together with 11 anti-Gaddafi demonstrators.

The operation was watched in an atmosphere of tension by police marksmen and three observers from the Saudi, Turkish and Syrian embassies. The Libyans were taken into a side street and checked for weapons or explosives. They were then placed in dark green police vans with darkened windows.

At 11.38am a convoy of 26 vehicles, including eight motor cycle outriders, and accompanied by members of the Special Branch and Anti-Terrorist Squad, pulled out into Jermyn Street and headed west towards the Civil Service Staff College at Sunningdale, a dozen miles from Heathrow airport.

Almost a hundred officers, many armed, were in the convoy while a police helicopter followed them overhead. Each of the seven vans carrying the Libyans included a policeman wearing a flak jacket sitting beside the driver.

At Sunningdale, which was constantly circled by the helicopter, immigration and customs officials checked the Libyans' passports and other documents. The men were also

"invited to contribute any knowledge that they have concerning the shooting of WPC Fletcher".

The gunman's identity is understood to have been sent to Tripoli after the shooting. One intelligence source said that if the message was properly coded British intelligence, despite the monitoring services of GCHQ and the National Security Agency in the United States, might still not know the name.

The Libyans spent seven hours at Sunningdale before being escorted to Heathrow.

Meanwhile, four large white bags and other luggage, including a plastic carrier bag, were removed from the bureau and taken to Heathrow to be placed on a flight to Tripoli.

While a lone Libyan diplomat took charge of the bureau, police entered the square searching for forensic science evidence of the shooting.

The man, Mohamed El-Madhuhi, an accredited diplomat who was not at the embassy at the time of the shooting, will be one of two with limited diplomatic immunity forming a Libyan interest section at the Saudi Arabian embassy, now acting for Libya. Britain has a reciprocal arrangement in Tripoli at the Italian embassy.

The police cannot enter the bureau until after midnight tomorrow but have said they will search the building accompanied by observers from the Saudi, Syrian and Turkish embassies.

It is thought that any weapons or explosives are likely to have been removed in diplomatic bags. Diplomatic rules, page 8

### Cabinet was warned of violence

By Anthony Bevins  
Political Correspondent

Cabinet Ministers were told more than a month ago that a Libyan machine gun squad had been let loose to kill anti-Gaddafi dissidents in Britain.

With the safe return of British diplomats from Tripoli, MPs will demand the fullest possible answers on the handling of intelligence before the shooting of Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher on April 17.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, guardedly told the Commons this week: "It is not the practice to give details of intelligence matters... I will say, however, that no specific information that would lead us to believe that such an incident would occur when it did was in our hands before the event."

The first intelligence warning, thought to have come from communications "intercept", was taken so seriously that both the Foreign Office and Scotland Yard issued a public statement.

Continued on back page, col 8

### Jobless fall helps shares to record

By Our City Staff

Share prices on the Stock Exchange rose to a record yesterday as investors expressed renewed optimism about the economy.

This was reinforced official statistics showing the first fall in unemployment for five months. Total unemployment dropped by 35,000 in April to 3,107,682.

The seasonally-adjusted adult total, which is a better guide to

trends, fell by 500 - the first April decline for five years.

Nearly £1,000m was added to the value of companies quoted on the stock market as the FT 30-Share Index closed the three-week account 8.9 up at 908.0, a rise of 32.6 on the account. The previous best of 901.4 was set on March 21. The FT All-Share Index - which gives a more accurate indication of the

market's performance - also hit a record with a rise of 2.65 to 534.83.

The Government also decided to use the wave of confidence as an opportunity to raise new funds. The Bank of England announced a new £1bn tap of Treasury 9½ per cent 1989.

Jobless fall, page 21  
Market report, page 22

### Israeli inquiry into bus hijackers' deaths

From Christopher Walker  
Jerusalem

Faced with mounting concern about the mystery surrounding the deaths of two Arabs who were killed after hijacking an Israeli bus two weeks ago, Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Defence Minister, has agreed to appoint a committee of inquiry headed by a retired general.

The committee will have far less scope or power than the three-member inquiry commission set up by the Cabinet to investigate the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian refugees in west Beirut and will be an internal Defence Ministry affair whose results will be published only after scrutiny by Mr Arens. It will be chaired by Reserve General Meir Zorea,

former Comptroller-General of the defence establishment.

The unannounced decision on Thursday to launch the investigation comes after serious doubts were raised by the existence of a number of photographs showing two of the four young hijackers being led away from the crippled bus. The photographs prompted speculation that one or both might later have been executed by the security forces.

The concern was reinforced by remarks made by Mr Arens in a television interview broadcast soon after the hijacking in which he declared: "Whoever plans terrorist acts in Israel must know that he will not get out alive".

This was interpreted in some political circles as indicating a



Mr Moshe Arens: Climb-down over inquiry.

change in Israel's traditional policy of not executing captured terrorists.

Some of the strictest military



Symbols of tragedy: WPC Fletcher's cap adorns the coffin; tears from Miss Sarah Fletcher with her sister Heather and (below) a wreath from Bow Street colleagues.

### Fond farewell to Super Fletch, a diamond of a girl

From Michael Horsnell, Salisbury

More than 600 Metropolitan Police officers paid their last respects to London Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher yesterday at a funeral service which overwhelmed Salisbury Cathedral with a mixture of outrage and helplessness.

It was ten days after the girl - known as Super Fletch to her colleagues - was mown down in a burst of automatic gunfire. Those who made the journey to her family home in the West Country knew that their colleagues in London were being forced to surrender her murderer to the safe haven of diplomatic immunity and a flight to Tripoli.

In his address to the packed rows of mourners Chief Sup Bryan West, head of Bow Street police station where Miss Fletcher served, said: "The sense of outrage, the feeling of the meaninglessness of this tragic incident, the whole bundle of emotions which we feel and express in our own ways, all these things are still with us; but the positive nature of Yvonne's attitude to life thrusts itself into our consciousness even at this early stage of grief for a death so sudden and unexpected... she was truly a diamond of a girl."

The service at the thirteenth century cathedral near Miss Fletcher's home village of Semley was attended by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, Sir Lawrence Byford, the Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Sir Kenneth Newman, the Commissioner of Metropolitan Police.

But all eyes were on Miss Fletcher's family, Tim and Queenie Fletcher, aged 22, Sarah, aged 17 and Debbie, aged 12, as well as on her fiancé, PC Michael Liddle, who dashed helplessly to her side that bloody day last week.

As the congregation filed through the north gate of the cathedral behind a coffin decked with the blue Metropolitan police flag and a white wreath of lilies, chrysanthemums and carnations, the family held on to their tears and each other.

At the back of the coffin rested the policewoman's hat, which had lain where she had fallen for ten days until a courageous colleague rescued it from the infamous square outside the Libyan People's Bureau in the early hours of yesterday.

The hat was specially taken to the funeral by her colleagues - a mark of their esteem for the tiniest WPC in the police force. Nearly all 300 officers from Bow Street attended the funeral swelling to more than 1,400 the congregation which included villagers, schoolfriends and others who remembered Miss Fletcher as an affectionate, vivacious girl and woman.

The coffin was borne by six constables who were among those with Miss Fletcher on 'A' relief at Bow Street: John Murray, Robert Trowbridge, Andrew Beck, Martin Thornton, John Parker and Paul Carter.

Continued on page 2, col 1

### Pressure mounts to widen pit strike

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Further steps to spread the pitmen's "rolling strike" were set in motion by leaders of traditionally moderate Lancashire miners yesterday and pressure to join the seven-week stoppage intensified in Nottinghamshire.

But the National Coal Board reported that 52 pits were still mining coal, most of them at normal levels. Overall output is running at about 500,000 tonnes a week, or 25 per cent of pre-strike production.

In Lancashire, nearly 200 delegates from coalfield branches of the National Union of Mineworkers effectively abandoned their decision to continue working until a national ballot is held, and voted overwhelmingly to seek a strike mandate from the several individual pits.

Mr Sidney Vincent, area secretary of the union, said the call for a ballot was dead. "We lost that battle. I honestly believe the feeling is now that those other people on strike are fighting our battles."

Militant miners from Sutton Manor and Bold collieries on Merseyside, who were angry that there had not been an immediate strike vote, staged a

sit-in in the hall of the union offices in Bolton. They said that they would stay there all weekend until the delegate conference reconvenes on Monday to consider the outcome of branch votes on joining the strike, which involves four miners in five.

While the Lancashire pitmen were debating whether to join the industrial action Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the union, urged the strikers to "raise the whole tempo" of their campaign against pit closures.

Rallies to persuade the moderate miners of Nottinghamshire to strike are to be held over the next few days and a coal board announcement that one job in 10 in the south of the county will go in the next year could act as a recruiting sergeant for the strike.

The dispute is also hardening north of the border. Scottish miners decided that they would only allow one trainload of coal into the Ravenscraig steelworks near Motherwell.

Leading article, page 9  
Nuclear restart, page 21

## Shouldn't WPA be the company policy?

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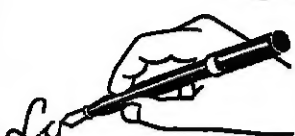
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#### THE TIMES Inside

Lost letters...  
Dear me, the disappearing art of letter writing

Page 8



...from afar  
Journeying in South America from Bogota to Brasilia

Pages 12, 13

Mix'n'...  
Decor in the home: how to coordinate household fabrics

Page 14

...match  
David Hands previews the John Player rugby cup final at Twickenham, and talks to Mike Rafter, the captain of Bristol, the holders

Page 28

### Britons held over fake £50 notes

Four Britons were detained in Calais after trying to exchange counterfeit £50 notes for francs. French police said that over Easter the four attempted to change counterfeit notes in two separate banks and police discovered a wad of 100 fake notes in a car belonging to two British tourists.

### Vacant pews

Three out of four children of 13 who attend Anglican churches regularly will have stopped before reaching 20, a survey on teenagers and religion says

page 3

### Diary of death

A librarian who committed suicide after shooting his wife, daughter and mother, left a diary explaining his fears that they might suffer in a nuclear war

page 3

### Steel plea

The Commons, Trade and Industry Select Committee has demanded an end to cuts in Britain's steel-making capacity until other European countries streamline their industries

Page 2

### Bulow retrial

Claus von Bulow, sentenced to 30 years' jail two years ago for attempting to murder his heiress wife, Sunny, has won his fight for a new trial.

### CIA sorry

The CIA chief, Mr William Casey, apologized to United States senators for not keeping them better informed over the agency's covert role in the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

Page 6

### Solidarity hope

Eleven Solidarity leaders accused of trying to overthrow the state have been holding secret talks with the Polish authorities concerning possible release from prison

Page 6

### Cutting costs

As the housebuying season reaches its peak, Family Money advises that it pays to shop around for professional help from solicitors and surveyors

Page 25

### Miss Opie fined

Lisa Opie, the British squash player, has been fined a record £1,000 and banned from next season's British Open after misbehaving at this year's final

Page 29

### Manager goes

Graham Hawkins has been dismissed as manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers, already relegated to the second division. Meanwhile, Don Howe is almost certain to be appointed the Arsenal manager today

Page 30

Leader page 9  
 Letters: On nurses' accommodation, from Mrs P Spencer, and others; civil liberties, from Mr M Ennals; cricket, from Sir E Ford.  
 Leading articles: Labour and the NUM; Ulster Unionists.  
 Features, page 8  
 Tightening the diplomatic rules; a lament for the letter; Woodrow Wyatt on the plight of the new press barons; what does the April sizzler portend?  
 Obituary, page 10  
 Dr Leslie Parker, Mr Douglas Tibbe, Miss Kathleen Hickey.

Home News	2-4	Law Report	31
Overseas	4-6	Letters	9
Arts	10, 23	Parliament	9
Area	7	Religion	10
Bridge	19	Sale Rooms	2
Business	21-27	Science	10
Chess	19	Services	10
Court	10	Sport	28-31
Crossword	34	TV & Radio	32-33
Diary	8	Theatres	18-19
Events	34	Weather	34



## Bill amendment would allow police to search diplomatic bags

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

MPs are to be given the chance to allow the police to apply for warrants to search diplomatic bags for guns, ammunition and explosives in direct violation of the Vienna convention.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, told the Commons on Wednesday that protection for diplomatic baggage was not only enshrined in the convention, but was also part of British domestic law under the Diplomatic Privileges Act, 1946.

But Mr Eddow Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds and a parliamentary consultant to the Police Federation, has now tabled an amendment to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill which would override the 1946 statute.

His new clause says that a county court judge may issue a search warrant if a police officer provides "reasonable grounds for believing that a diplomatic bag which is presented at a port of entry of the United Kingdom

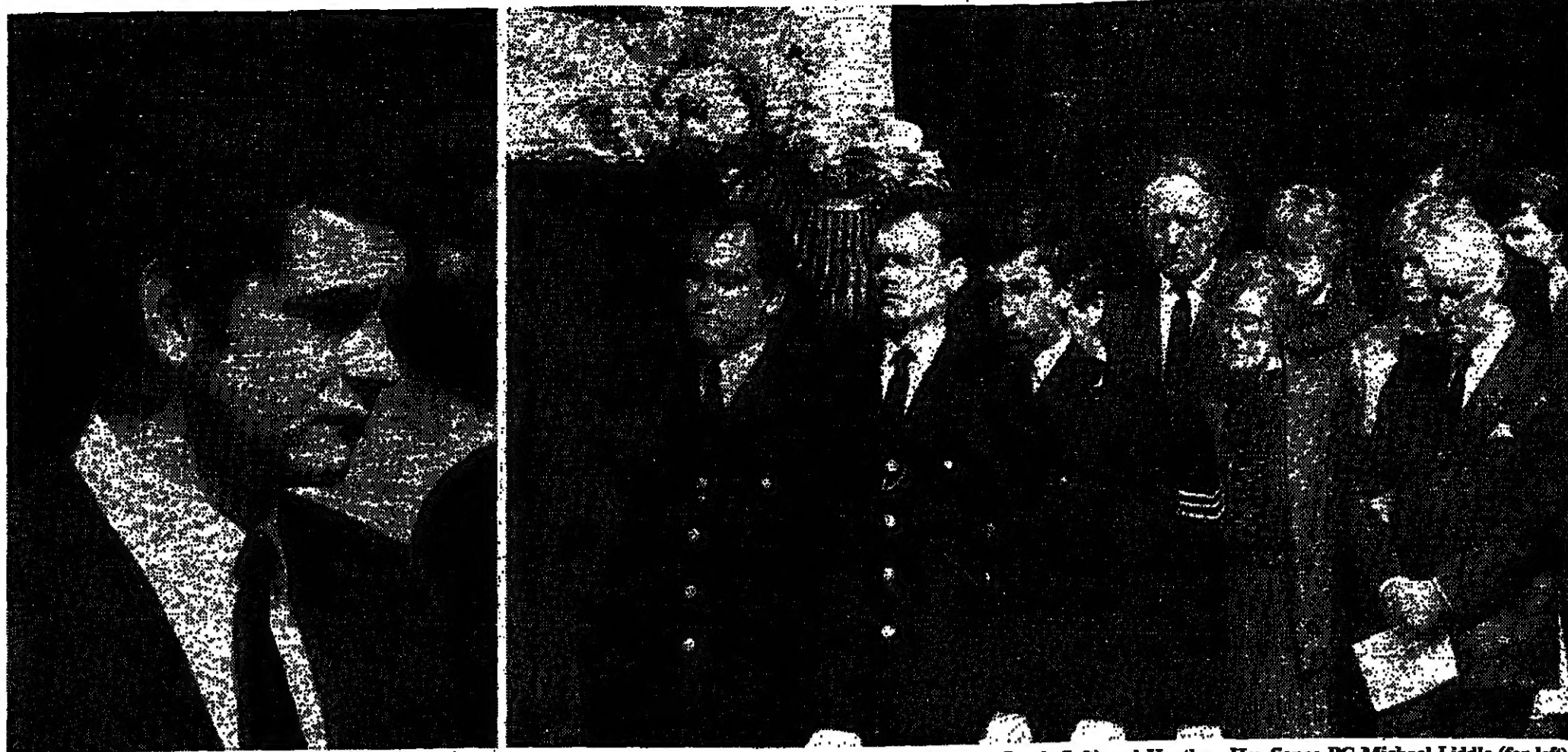
for importation may contain firearms, ammunition, or materials for causing explosions."

Before applying for a warrant, the officer must first have given a number of the relevant diplomatic mission the opportunity to open the bag for inspection, and the bag may be removed at any time from the United Kingdom.

But if the bag remains, the police would be entitled to carry out an external search "by x-rays, magnetometry, ultrasonic or other similar means". If reasonable suspicion is sustained by that scan, then the officer "may search the bag for the articles, and seize any".

It is expected that the Police Bill's report stage, and debate of the new clause, will be taken next month. Although MPs from both sides of the Commons have supported unilateral action, Mr Brittan told the Commons this week that he could not support such a change.

## Farewell to Super Fletch, 'a diamond of a girl'



WPC Fletcher's coffin is borne from Salisbury Cathedral by police pallbearers followed by her parents and sisters, Sarah (left) and Heather. Her fiancé PC Michael Liddle (far left) was among the mourners (Photographs, Ian Stewart).

## WPC Fletcher's fiancée and family follow in tribute

Continued from page 1

Constable Murray and Thornton were in St James's Square where she was shot. Barrington Cook, who followed the coffin was in charge of the street duties instructors of whom Miss Fletcher was one.

Other colleagues from Bow Street and C District in London's West End lined the entrance to this most English of cathedrals.

Among the mourners was Constable Philip Olds, who was shot three years ago. The Metropolitan Police Choir and three police trumpeters played the Last Post and Reveille

before the altar which was suffused with multicoloured light from the bright sunshine drawn through Gabriel Loire's huge Prisoner of Conscience stained glass window.

The hymns, "The Lord is My Shepherd," "Blest Are the Pure in Heart," "Father Hear the Prayer We Offer" and "Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer," were chosen by Miss Fletcher's family with the Rev Peter Shaw, Rector of Semley, whose parish church once heard Miss Fletcher sing in the choir.

Mr Shaw led the prayers and Miss Fletcher's Bow Street

colleague WPC Deborah Jack read from Revelations, Chapter 21, of God wiping away every tear from every eye. But there were many tears in the cathedral - and outside where hundreds of people gathered.

There, local police, some of whom help weapons in reserve, kept a tight security hold and all morning the cathedral had been closed and patrolled by dogs.

In his address, Chief Supt West said: "No words of mine can be adequate for this task, but her life and the crushing tragic manner of her death demand that tribute be paid.

"Her involvement in her life as a Metropolitan Police officer had so much commitment, so much affectionate attachment, so much interest that we all have the right to claim to be parts of an extended family and we will be seeking support from each other in our sense of loss which..."

He added: "It falls to me to state that there was someone whose slight physical frame belied an enormous stature. She was truly a diamond of a girl. Yvonne, known as 'Fletch' by some, but by most as 'Super Fletch', will be dearly missed."

She tackled every task, no matter how irksome or inconvenient, with happy willingness and an infectious chuckle that was her particular mark."

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In a short epilogue, the Bishop of Salisbury, the Right Rev John Austin Baker called on Christians to support and befriend policemen.

## British siege tactics too lenient, Israeli minister says

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

An Israeli cabinet minister speaking, it never pays to appease terrorists. The incident should never have been allowed to develop as it did, there should have been action immediately the shooting took place. That should have been an essential part of the operation."

Emphasizing that he was speaking personally, rather than on behalf of his government, the minister acknowledged that the presence of British diplomats and thousands of British citizens in Libya subsequently posed a problem.

But he said, without going into operational details, that such a situation would not have arisen if the security forces had immediately moved against those inside the embassy.

Like many other Israelis, who have followed the events in St James's Square with an almost obsessive interest, Professor Ne'eman expressed the firm hope that the experience may have changed what is widely regarded here, as the British Government's traditionally pro-Arab bias.

## Storm likely on steel as MPs say EEC must cut back first

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A political storm is in prospect after the demand by Conservative-dominated Trade and Industry Select Committee this week that there be no more cuts in Britain's steel making capacity until other European countries have taken steps to streamline their industries.

The British Steel Corporation, under its new chairman, Mr Robert Haslam, is believed to be about to advocate drastic action to return one of the country's biggest loss makers to profitability. Closure of the Ravenscroft works in Scotland and the Llanwern plant in South Wales is high on the corporation's list of possible courses of action.

The committee, whose strongly worded report may force the Government into making a new steel policy statement, has been convinced by statistics which show that Britain has done far more than any of its EEC counterparts to bring steel making capacity more into line with present and expected demand.

The committee recognized the "enormous progress" made by the corporation to improve efficiency and quality and to boost productivity more rapidly than any other EEC member.

Other producers in Europe have however claimed for years that the industry in Britain has been the most over-manned and under-productive and in need of much larger cuts than their own.

Under the complicated system of production quotas, price regulations and state aid vetting imposed by the EEC Commission to meet what it judged a "manifest crisis" in the industry, countries have been allocated shares in a European-wide capacity cutback of almost 27 million tonnes although the

commission now believes that 35 million tonnes is nearer the mark.

In the three years up to last summer, the British had closed four million tonnes of their 1980 capacity of 22,840,000 tonnes, but the West Germans, French, Belgians and Italians, while making promises to close a total of almost 14 million tonnes of capacity, had failed signally to match Britain's cuts.

On June 29 last year, the commission agreed on a further total cut of 8.3 million tonnes, bringing the total required, promised or already undertaken to 26,736,000 tonnes. The British industry was required to

take out only an additional 500,000 tonnes of capacity compared with 3,460,000 tonnes requested from the Italians.

It would appear that the scene for confrontation over painful job cuts and closures will now shift from Britain to the rest of Europe and, in particular, to France.

The commission has ruled that there should be no more state subsidies to steel after 1985, but the French plan for its industry, losing £870m a year, could entail up to 30 billion francs (£3,866m) being spent by 1987 in addition to the 17 billion francs already spent between 1981 and 1983.

Mr Strauss recommended "a truly innovative culture-busting prime minister's department" to help Mrs Thatcher think the unthinkable and break the grip of Whitehall departments which behaved as if they were pressure groups.

Until this happens there is little chance of Britain capturing a larger share of the new high technology world markets and

## Call for Thatcher to lead in isolation

By Peter Hennessy

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has fallen into the hands of cautious and conventional advisors. It is time for her to trust her instincts, break free and think the unthinkable, Mr Norman Strauss, a former member of the Prime Minister's Downing Street policy unit, said yesterday.

In a lecture entitled "The Politics of the Mind" given to the annual conference of the Federation of Business and Professional Women in Bournemouth, Mr Strauss said Mrs Thatcher "must go back to leadership isolation and trust more to her own instincts for change, than to this pusillanimous plethora of panderist paternalism."

He said: "When isolated with her back against the wall, with survival at stake, she leads. When censored in comfort, she merely follows."

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## Soviet ships worry cruise lines

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

The long-term Russian threat to Britain's cruise fleet has been greatly increased by a big Soviet order for five big new cruise liners from Polish yards.

Soviet passenger shipping concerns were strongly criticized this week for offering a far smaller reduction in cut-price fares next year - 6.75 per cent against 45 per cent - than is being demanded by Britain's cruise lines, Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and Cunard.

The British lines say the Russians greatly increased their hold on the Canberra, Queen Elizabeth and Uganda were away on Falklands service, and that they offer totally different fares - about half the British level - with which no Western shipowner could compete.

That is denied by the Russians, whose British spokesman, Mr Eric Phippen, said this week that to give in to the "protectionist pressure" of P&O and Cunard would be unfair to the Russians' loyal customers and against the consumer interest.

He said the bed nights offered by Soviet cruise ships on the British market were: 1980 - 161,000; 1981 - 178,000; 1982 - 207,000; 1983 - 250,000; 1984 - 179,000; 1985 - 166,000 (estimated). The British lines have been trying to get the Soviet share reduced to its 1979 level of 116,000.

The five new ships, due for delivery between 1978 and 1990, will be among the biggest and most luxurious under the Russian flag, with room for 750 passengers.

A British shipping spokesman said yesterday: "There is no indication yet where these ships will operate. But we would be very concerned if they were to turn up on the British market at the sort of uncommercial prices they have been offering so far."

## Torture claimed by Iranian protesters

By Robin Young

Supporters of 11 Iranian students who attempted to occupy the Iranian consulate in Kensington Court, west London, on Thursday claimed yesterday that the protesters had been beaten and tortured by diplomats during the eight hours they were in the building.

Mr Seyavosh, Sabet of the student organization supporting the Fedayin, Marxist-Leninist opponents of Ayatollah Khomeini's regime, said that three of the 11 had been taken to hospital and one, a girl with facial injuries, had been detained overnight. One man had been unconscious for four hours after being clubbed by a member of the consular staff.

Mr Larry Grant, the group's solicitor, said the demonstrators had been badly beaten while their hands were tied with wire. They had been forcibly photographed and fingerprinted, and subjected to a detailed questioning about the whereabouts of friends and relatives in Britain and Iran.

No charges have yet been brought against the protesters, who are all in police custody. Whether charges are eventually

brought is likely to depend upon the willingness of Iranian diplomats to give statements to the police and to appear as witnesses in court.

Four Iranians arrested outside the consulate during the occupation, appeared at West London magistrates court yesterday, charged with using threatening behaviour. They were all remanded on unconditional bail until May 11.

The men all unemployed, are: Mehran Raouf, aged 27, of Grafton Way, central London; Behrooz Ahmadi, aged 23, of Ranelagh Crescent, Fulham, west London; Mohammed Zare-Nejad, aged 26, of Bonchurch Road, north Kensington; and Parviz Chah, aged 45, of Ongar Road, Fulham, west London.

Mr Sabet said that the group's action, planned to coincide with similar demonstrations in 11 cities in Europe, the United States and Canada, had been intended as peaceful. His group would be protesting to the Foreign Office at the way in which Iranian diplomats had behaved during the incident, he said.

## Fire risk closes forests

Forests throughout South Wales were closed yesterday to the public until further notice because of the extreme fire danger caused by the dry weather.

Mr Gwyn Owen, regional spokesman for the Forestry Commission, said woodland throughout the area was dangerously dry.

"Fires have been spreading quickly because of high winds accompanying the present drought," he said.

Only hours after the Commission appealed to people to take care because of fire risks firemen were fighting a blaze over four square miles of

grassland in the Brecon Beacons area of mid-Wales.

The commission reported that recent fires have burned more than 1,000 acres of woodland, with trees destroyed and wildlife killed. People have been asked not to venture away from designated picnic areas.

Hundreds of grass and woodland fires in Wales have caused damage estimated at £500,000.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$1.75; Belgium 1.75; Canada 1.75; Denmark 1.75; France 1.75; Germany 1.75; Greece 1.75; Ireland 1.75; Italy 1.75; Japan 1.75; Korea 1.75; Luxembourg 1.75; Netherlands 1.75; Norway 1.75; Portugal 1.75; Spain 1.75; Sweden 1.75; Switzerland 1.75; Taiwan 1.75; Thailand 1.75; United Kingdom 1.75; USA 1.75; West Germany 1.75.

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## Journalists defy court on Dimbleby papers

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Leaders of the National Union of Journalists yesterday were set on a fresh collision course with the Government's labour laws by ignoring court orders to end official support for strikers at Mr David Dimbleby's Richmond and Twickenham Times group.

The union's national executive "noted" a report from its general secretary, Kenneth Ashton, which disclosed that the union had not obeyed writs requiring it to stop backing eight strikers, whose industrial action has been judged unlawful by the House of Lords.

"It is up to Mr Dimbleby now," Mr Ashton said last night. "He has to make a further application to the courts if he wishes to sue or pursue us. He has to get an order for contempt."

Mr Dimbleby of the newspaper group, said: "I am not prepared at this stage to say anything. The NUJ's failure to observe the injunction has clarified the position for us, and that is what I want to do. We will be keeping the matter under review."

If he does go back to court, the union could face proceedings for contempt unless it

agrees to drop official support for the Richmond and Twickenham Times journalists who are striking against the transfer of printing the group's titles to THE Printers in Nottingham, a company in the same group as T Bailey Forman, publishers of the Evening Post, from which the journalists' union members were dismissed in 1979.

The union fearing sequestration of its firm funds in the wake of the Eddie Shah v National Graphical Association case, has moved bank deposits around in the hope of staving off possible bankruptcy that could follow fines of the scale levied on the NGA for defiance of High Court injunctions against secondary action.

But union officials privately concede that there is little that they can do to prevent seizure of union funds if the court imposes penalties for defying injunctions granted under the Employment Acts.

The union is spending about £1,000 a week to maintain the eight journalists on net take-home pay, despite a court order restraining it from financing or supporting its members on strike at Dimbleby newspapers.

## Powell critical of archbishop backing miners

Mr Enoch Powell, MP for Down, South and himself an active churchman, accused the Archbishop of York of religious bankruptcy in a speech to the Cambridge University Conservative Association yesterday.

The archbishop, Dr John Habgood, had written to Durham miners supporting their strike against pit closures.

"Millions of people, Mr Powell said, condemned the miners. 'If the miners are at fault, how much more so are those whom society has placed in a position to teach, to enlighten, and to lead'."

He said the archbishop advocated the working of pits which were no longer viable, which he called "real and flagrant immorality."

Dr Habgood said later that he referred to the excellent record of pit closures in Durham over the past 25 years (the Press Association reports).

More than 1,400 miners in Mr Michael Foot's constituency of Blaenau Gwent have been issued with food vouchers worth £10 after a unanimous decision by the local borough council (Tim Jones writes).

## Miniature battery poison warning to parents

By Mark Russell

Parents have been warned of the dangers posed by miniature "button" batteries after a child who swallowed a battery was saved from mercury poisoning.

Nicola Callan, aged nearly two, is making good progress at Guy's Hospital in London after swallowing the battery three weeks ago.

The batteries, which are usually less than one centimetre in diameter, are widely used in tape recorders, transistor radios, hearing aids and small lights. They are bright and shiny,

highly attractive to children. Dr Tim Mant, registrar at the hospital's poison unit, said yesterday: "The mercury batteries themselves contain enough mercury to be fatal. It is a very small amount, but the mercury salts are very poisonous."

Dr Mant advised that a child suspected of swallowing a battery should be taken to hospital immediately and that a similar battery or the appliance should be taken so that doctors determine whether the battery is potentially poisonous.

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## Record price for Chinese dish

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A big Chinese blue and white dish which was used by its Swedish owners for their crayfish parties in August, until they were tipped off by the connoisseur king, Gustav Adolf VI, that they had a rare treasure was sold by Bakowski's in Stockholm yesterday for 5.6 million kronor (estimate 600,000 kronor) or £487,000. It is among the highest prices ever paid at auction in Sweden.

The dish, dating from about 1400 and 63cm (about 25in) wide, is finely decorated with a pattern of trees, rocks and flowers. The purchaser was a Tokyo dealer, Shi Nojo Art, and among the underbidders was an American on a transatlantic telephone.

The same Japanese gallery spent £25,000 kronor (estimate 300,000) or £71,739 on a blue and white Chinese vase dating from Wanli's reign (1573-1619) while a private Swedish collector spent 300,000 kronor (estimate

250,000) or £26,000 on a Changhua (1465-1487) blue and white stem cup.

Bakowski's four day sale brought roughly £1m more than estimated, with much keen bidding. The big surprise was a seascape painted by August Strindberg, the novelist and playwright, which sold for 1,325,000 kronor (estimate 350,000-400,000) or £115,217 to a private Swedish collector.

Few people know that he painted. This was a haunting impressionistic view of beach, sky and sea dated 1892.

A Victorian genre scene, famous throughout Sweden, entitled "Grädeslåtaren" and painted around 1890 by August Malmström, had been expected to reach the top picture price and sold for 1,075,000 kronor or £93,478. A group of barefoot children are shown fighting for the proceeds after opening a gate to a coach which disappears in the distance. The picture had been on loan to the

Linköping Museum and was bought by a hotel in Malmö.

At Phillips in London yesterday the best lots fetched well beyond estimate in a silver sale. A commission bid left by a London dealer secured a 1728 soap tureen, cover and stand by Charles Kandler I (216 oz), at £44,000 (estimate £10,000-£12,000) with Koopman as the underbidder. A George I inkstand of 1714 by David Williams (66 oz) made £16,500 (estimate £7,000-£8,000). The sale totalled £216,280 with 14 per cent left unsold.

A two day sale at Henry Duke and Son of Dorchester finished yesterday with a total of £110,000 and less than 3 per cent unsold. A rare pair of Regency metalwork chestnut urns and covers made £2,420. They are painted with birds in landscape against a mustard yellow ground, a rare colour which may explain the high price.

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## Anglican churches 'lose 75% of congregation before they reach 20'

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Three out of four children aged 13 who regularly attend Church of England services will have stopped going to church by the time they are 20, according to a church survey on teenagers and religion.

Dr Leslie Francis, a social psychologist and clergyman, analysed the age structure of a sample of nearly 2,000 teenagers in church one Sunday in six districts of Lancashire, in all denominations, but most strikingly in the Church of England, he found a steady decline year by year.

He concluded that about half the teenagers attending Free Church or Roman Catholic services would have dropped out before reaching 20, and about three-quarters of the Anglicans.

He found that the Free Churches had the least number of teenagers overall, and the Catholic Church the most.

Dr Francis also found less evidence of religious commitment among Anglican teenagers. One in five is not sure about the existence of God, and

one in three is not sure about the Resurrection. On both counts the Catholic teenagers scored highest, with the Free Church group next. Dr Francis concluded that many teenagers attend Anglican churches for a time, with an open mind, looking for something.

While the Free Church group was the most religiously conservative, the Anglicans were most conservative in secular politics, and also the most likely to be racially prejudiced. Among Catholic teenagers there was a marked bias towards the Labour Party, but that group was also the one with the largest proportion of working class members.

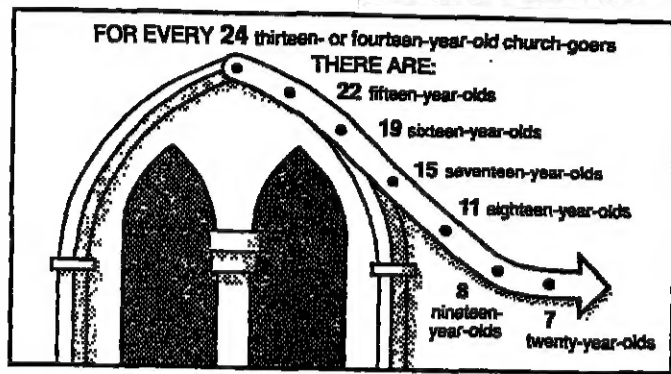
The report was commissioned by the youth unit of the British Council of Churches, and is being published in book form by Collins next week. Dr Francis, who ends his report with questions for further study rather than with his own conclusions and recommendations, is research officer at the Culham College Institute for Church Related Education.

SURVEY OF BELIEFS			
	Anglican	Free Church	Catholic
(Figures in percentages)			
Belief in God	81	87	79
Jesus the Son of God	85	81	87
Resurrection	85	81	87
Life after death	84	81	87
God "inside the world"	55	48	36
In six days	48	54	37
Christianity "only true religion"	48	54	37
Reincarnation	20	18	25
Contraception	15	7	4
Wrong	15	7	4
See outside marriage	32	55	28
Abortion wrong	74	48	48

He writes in the introduction: "The general absence of teenagers from the churches makes those who are church attenders of great interest and importance to the churches... Why do they keep going?"

A high proportion of all teenagers in all denominations expressed some dissatisfaction with church services, often saying the sermons were unhelpful, the service itself lacked "life" and was boring, but very many were still prepared to consider it relevant to their lives.

Only 15 per cent of Catholic teenagers regarded contraception as wrong, but 74 per cent opposed abortion. Only 28 per cent of Anglican teenagers thought sex outside marriage was wrong, compared with 55 per cent of Free Church teenagers, who also strongly disapproved of drink, drugs, and minor law-breaking (of which the Catholics were most tolerant).



## Drugs cases top 250 in Services

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

More than 250 cases of drug abuse, some involving trafficking, were investigated in the armed forces last year, a minister has revealed in a letter to a Labour MP.

Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for Armed Forces, told Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, that 168 drug-related offences were investigated in the Army, 67 in the Royal Navy and 28 in the RAF.

All those in the Navy and the RAF resulted in proceedings, while the Army figure included those which did not result in proceedings.

The letter was sent to Mr Morris after he had tabled a parliamentary question asking for information about drug abuse in the Services.

Mr Morris said last night: "These figures are extremely worrying, and by the procedure he has chosen to give them the minister has by-passed the House of Commons. They must be published."

## Ramblers deny code incites trespass

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Ramblers' Association has refused a request by the Sports Council to withdraw a leaflet which the National Farmers' Union says is an incitement to trespass.

The council said yesterday that it had printed 50,000 copies of the leaflet on behalf of the association, at a cost of £1,800, as part of a four year programme to encourage individual outdoor activities.

However, because of criticism by the union the council said: "We felt that in all conscience we ought to ask the association to withdraw it. It has declined to do so."

The union argues that the leaflet suggests that walkers need keep to paths only on National Trust property, not elsewhere; that they may walk on any common land, even where there is no right of access; and that on private hill land they may disregard warning notices at their own risk.

Mr Fred Elliott, chairman of the union's parliamentary committee, said yesterday that thousands of acres of private

land were open for roaming, but the man who had to make a living from the land deserved consideration. "This leaflet gives him nine and I am bitter that decent people's taxes were used to print it," he added.

Mr Alan Martin, the association's secretary, said that he regarded the leaflet as perfectly sensible and fair and that the farmers had over-reacted.

It warned people to keep to paths on National Trust land, because many people thought mistakenly they could go anywhere they liked. There was no implication that the same did not apply on privately owned land.

People had been walking across common land, such as Dartmoor, for centuries without impediment, even where there was no legal right of access.

The advice to walkers that they should proceed beyond notices at their own risk had been intended as "a mild deterrent" and was not an incitement to trespass.



## Viewing in the sun at Belton

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Art dealers, collectors, souvenir hunters and the merely curious poured into Belton House, near Grantham, Lincolnshire, yesterday to pick over the goods that Christie's is to auction on behalf of Lord Brownlow next week.

An even bigger turnout is expected today when viewing the sale can be combined with a stroll in the landscaped parkland and formal gardens of the great Restoration house, not to mention smoked salmon sandwiches and chilled white wine in a striped marquee.

It is the last act of the long drawn out parting of Brownlow and Belton, which has been a painful process since the death of the sixth Baron Brownlow in July 1978. At first his son Edward, the present Lord Brownlow, hoped that capital taxes might be paid and the house retained by constructing an adventure playground and other attractions to pull in paying visitors, but they did not come in sufficient numbers.

Instead he has now given the house to the nation and sold the National Trust, which is to run it, a substantial part of the contents as well as the surrounding parkland. In return for his generosity the trust has allocated a flat in one wing for the use of the Brownlow family.

It will take Christie's the first three days of next week to



Treasure hunt: One of yesterday's visitors on the library stairs of Belton House, which are for sale, and (below) the exterior of the house (photographs: Jonathan Player)

dispose of the furnishings and other accumulations of the family's three centuries at Belton which are not wanted either by the National Trust or Lord Brownlow. He is now living in Jersey.

The best of Belton's art collection derives from three separate inheritances: first that of John Brownlow who created Viscount Tyrconnel in 1718 and was a passionate collector; second, the collection formed by Sir Henry Bankes, a London merchant, whose daughter married a Brownlow in 1775; third, Sir Abraham Hume, whose daughter did likewise. Sir Abraham inherited a vast fortune from a "rabob" uncle and was one of the first benefactors of the National Gallery. There are paintings from all those sources in the sale.

The National Trust has tried to keep most of the furniture that had a long association with Belton and much of the

material in the sale arrived there in the 1920s after the sale of the family's other stately home, Ashridge Park in Hertfordshire, and their London house in Carlton House Terrace. The star items include a lapis lazuli cabinet on a Charles II giltwood stand and a magnificent George III library staircase over 10ft high.

The other items vary from the sublime to the ridiculous in true country house style. There are fascinating folios and albums of watercolours by gifted members of the family.

There are fancy dress clothes made for theatrically minded Victorian ancestors, quantities of washstands and coal stoves, a pair of superb Regency potty cyphers (matching several similar pairs retained by the National Trust), and the handsome pram in which Lord Brownlow's sister Caroline was pushed out by her nurse in the 1930s.

## Gentle librarian left diary telling how he killed his family

From Our Correspondent, Sheffield

Mr Frank Parry, a normally gentle librarian, left behind a tragic diary after turning into a crazed killer and shooting his family.

The six-page document read out in court yesterday told why Mr Parry, aged 52, shot his wife, daughter and mother before turning the gun on himself.

It happened because he felt his life had been a failure and, although he wanted to die, he feared leaving behind his loved ones because he was convinced they would suffer in a nuclear war.

Mr Parry, who collected antique firearms, had been questioned over £1,400 missing from the branch library at Kidlington, Oxfordshire, where he worked.

First he shot his wife, Audrey, aged 50, through the head with a revolver as she helped him repair his car. With her body in the front seat he drove from his home in Broughton, Banbury, Oxfordshire, to collect his daughter Justine, aged 12 from school.

He drove her 180 miles to a beauty spot near Mexborough, South Yorkshire, which they had loved, before moving south. There he shot the child through the head.

Next he drove to the home of his mother, Mrs Ruth Parry, aged 79, in Rotherham, with the bodies still in the car.

As police listened in on an interview he shot his mother dead.

Mr Parry walked out and saw police closing in. He pulled out a revolver and shot himself through the head.

Inside his mother's flat police found the diary which the Rotherham coroner, Mr Kenneth Potter, read out in full.

It said: "For some years now I have wished to die. However, this would have meant leaving the three persons dearest in the world to me without my protection."

"I can't leave them to the threat of death from radiation sickness after the coming atomic war."

"On March 28 I realized I couldn't go on, in which case

the only course of action was to take them with me. I have done this. Happily none of them had the slightest inkling what was going to happen. In each case death was instant."

The coroner then read out the entries on every individual death.

Mr Parry wrote: "I cannot get my mother in the car, so she will have to stay in her flat. I shall drive with Audrey and Justine to some pleasant spot which we have enjoyed and shoot myself in the car."

"What of myself? Why have I felt it necessary to kill the three people closest to me, all the objects of my most intense love? It is because of that love that I have taken them with me."

"Well, what were the final arbiters? I have been dead professionally for 12 years, of which the last 10 have been a nightmare."

"More important, I have felt this more since reaching 50. I am a man who thought himself a poet and wished to be nothing more, yet I have not succeeded in having published as much as a single line."

The note ended: "What really matters is that they never knew. We shall all be at peace for ever now. I think I'll drive to Lady Bower (a north Derbyshire beauty spot)."

"Justine wanted to go there. To those who must deal with the remains I extend my apologies."

The coroner recorded verdicts that Mr Parry unlawfully killed his mother, wife and daughter and killed himself.

Mr Potter said: "He seems to have been a happily married man living in the bosom of his family, devoted to his wife and only child. It is difficult to understand the working of his mind, why he should behave in this appalling way."

"When one sees the note one begins to realize that there were many bizarre factors in his make-up."

The coroner had been told that 14 guns were found at his home, eight of them loaded.

## Six years' jail for stealing from pensioners

Jack Sawyer, aged 33, of Poplar, east London, stole £130 from two elderly people after posing as a council officer or welfare worker to trick his way into their homes, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. He was jailed for six years.

The Common Sergeant, Judge David Tudor Price, said that Sawyer, with a long criminal record, had been dealt with leniently in the past by being given two years for offences of burglary and deception concerning pensioners.

Sawyer admitted the offences at the homes of Mrs Esther Hallett, aged 67, a widow, and Mr John Aldrich, aged 67, a retired road sweeper, both of Stepney, east London.

The court heard that Sawyer rifled a drawer and stole Mrs Hallett's savings of £40. After taking a pension book from Mr Aldrich's flat, Sawyer made his victim, a cripple using a walking frame, accompany him to a post office, and then stole £90.

## Nuclear flask in rail crash 'not dangerous'

A nuclear flask carried by a train in collision with a car on an unguarded level crossing on the Hastings to Ashford line at Appledore, Kent, was in no danger of contamination, Mr David Mitchell, Under Secretary of State for Transport, told the Commons in a statement yesterday.

The train, travelling on a single line from Dungeness Power Station on Thursday, was restricted to 5mph but had been going even more slowly as the driver had seen sheep on the line.

British Rail would be making a report on the extent of the damage when their inquiries were completed. The flask had been examined by the Central Electricity Generating Board within 90 minutes of the accident and found to be undamaged.

Although the crossing was unguarded, there were clear road warning signs.

## Heart-lung woman recovering

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Britain's only surviving heart-lung transplant patient, Mrs Brenda Barber, has been moved from intensive care to a single room on the open surgical ward at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire.

Three weeks after her operation, Mrs Barber, aged 36, of



Mrs Barber: Doing well

Lewisham, south-east London, has been taking short strolls regularly in the hospital grounds with her husband, Stephen, and daughter, Samantha Jane, aged five.

A hospital spokesman, Mr John Edwards, said: "Mrs Barber continues to make good progress, although it will be several more weeks before any possibility of her being able to go home could be considered. It was felt by her doctors that she had progressed sufficiently to be moved from intensive care."

Mrs Barber is the first patient to receive a new heart and lungs at Papworth Hospital. The operation was performed successfully on two other patients at Harefield Hospital, west London, last December and in March, but neither survived more than three weeks.

Papworth Hospital announced yesterday that a heart transplant had been carried out on a man, in his early twenties, from Cheshire. He is the hospital's seventy-third heart transplant.

## Teachers will draw up guidelines for the arts

By Colin Hughes

Lecturers and teachers of the arts are to draw up proposals for assessing the performance of pupils studying subjects such as drama, music, painting and literature, a conference was told yesterday.

This move resulted from the decision by the Department of Education and Science not to lay down guidelines for assessing the arts, after last year's publication of a widely criticized report of an Assessment of Performance Unit working party.

The newly formed National Association of Education in Arts, holding its first working conference at the London Institute of Education, challenged the traditional view that arts subjects were too subjective to enable assessment guidelines to be formulated.

Professor David Aspin, of King's College London, said the decision by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to put the arts at the core of the curriculum was a victory in a long battle to persuade policy-makers that the arts are fundamental, not an educational frill.

Scientists had long held sway with their view that arts

subjects were "irredeemably subjective", allowing ministers and parents to consider the arts as a "second-class citizen" in schools. Professor Aspin said progress in a pupil's informed understanding of the arts and ability to judge could be tested, but assessment criteria could not be laid out in tables and checklists.

The value of arts studies lay in the variety of interpretations and possibilities of meaning, and pupils could be assessed in their learning of the different techniques used in judging and making art.

Professor Aspin joked about the lecturer who was asked: "How do you measure sensitivity?" He replied: "Out of 25." The student was asked: "What did you get out of your course on sensitivity?" He answered: "A B".

He countered by saying it was possible to assess a student's ability to judge the value of Hamlet or Beethoven's Third Symphony by testing whether it was a judgment to which others could respond, and whether the pupils rendered an intelligible response.

## Gun killer still at large inquest is told

Despite extensive investigations, no one has been charged with the murder of Mr Patrick O'Nione, aged 52, of Collins Street, Blackheath, south-east London, on November 30, 1982, police told an inquest yesterday.

Mr O'Nione was outside a wine bar in Tower Bridge Road, London. Professor Hugh Johnson, the pathologist, told the Southwark coroner that he was hit in the back of the head, the right shoulder and through the chest and abdomen. He died from multiple gunshot wounds.

A verdict of unlawful killing was returned.

## Protest at Commons guide dog ban

By John Winter

Mr Robert Wareing Labour MP for Liverpool, West Derby who said that Mrs Allen was being denied her democratic right.

Mr Wareing complained to the Deputy Speaker, Mr Paul Dean, that it was ludicrous that Mrs Allen should be refused admission with her dog when she had been admitted to the Lords with the same dog recently.

Mr Dean said that the services committee had recently considered the question and had decided not to change the arrangements so he could not help.

Mr Wareing said that Mrs Allen could have gained access without her dog, which could have been taken care of, but such animals fretted and

became ill even if they were removed from their owners only for a short time.

Mrs Allen said: "I came to hear the report stage of the Cycle Tracks Bill because blind people are very worried at having to share footpaths with cyclists and we have been battling against it."

"This is discrimination against blind people at the highest level and I feel very sad about it."

Mr Wareing said he would be pressing for space to be made available in the public gallery for a limited number of blind people and their dogs.

Last year when Mrs Allen collected her MBE from the Queen she was refused permission to take her guide dog into Buckingham Palace.

## Factory set alight to stop smell

Peter Wilson, a farm labourer, took the law into his own hands the night he started a £44,000 fire at a maggot factory, Keston, Cheshire, paid a midnight visit to the factory and set fire to it, Mr Richard Fairley, for the prosecution, told the court.

After giving himself up to the police, Wilson said: "Everyone was fed up with the stench, and did nothing. So I decided to get rid of it once and for all."

He admitted arson and was ordered to carry out 200 hours community service, and pay £500 compensation. The Recorder, Mr Graham Jones, said he had received a public petition pleading for leniency.

For years a farming community had suffered the stench from rotting carcasses and dead fish stored at the factory, despite appeals to the local authority and MPs that it should be closed.

Finally, Wilson, aged 17, of Coole Lane, Baddington, near Nantwich, Cheshire, paid a midnight visit to the factory and set fire to it, Mr Richard Fairley, for the prosecution, told the court.

After giving himself up to the police, Wilson said: "Everyone was fed up with the stench, and did nothing. So I decided to get rid of it once and for all."

He admitted arson and was ordered to carry out 200 hours community service, and pay £500 compensation. The Recorder, Mr Graham Jones, said he had received a public petition pleading for leniency.

## Jenkins to rest

Mr Roy Jenkins, founder of the Social Democratic Party and MP for Hillhead, is recovering from a viral infection and has been advised to take two or three weeks' rest from his parliamentary and public duties.

## Cheaper burials

Liverpool City Council yesterday announced plans to provide "simple, dignified and inexpensive" funerals, to start after the council elections next month. The intention is to cut the cost of burial by up to a quarter.

## Behan death

Mrs Kathleen Behan, mother of Brendan Behan, the playwright and a sister of Peadar Kearney, who wrote the Irish national anthem has died in a nursing home in Dublin. She was 94.

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## Cut-price car war starts as weather tempts buyers

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The unseasonably fine weather has sent motorists racing into car showrooms and started a new cut-price war between the big three car makers, Ford, General Motors and Austin Rover, for market leadership in the key months of May and June.

July is normally a "dead" month as the trade prepares for the August bonanza when nearly one in five of the car sales take place. Demand outstrips supply and causes confusion in dealers' overloaded showrooms.

With record sales forecast for a second year running, May and June are assuming special importance. With the sunshine tempting buyers to get their new cars earlier, the manufacturers are advancing planned sales campaigns.

General Motors (Vauxhall and Opel) wrote to their dealers yesterday that they would receive a bonus of up to £125 a car if they reach sales targets between April 26 and June 30.

That follows even bigger bonuses announced by Austin Rover earlier this month. Its dealers collect up to £250 for achieving their target on Metros and Maestros with an extra £250 for every Maestro sold to the owner of a competitor's car.

The impact has been immediate. Metro and Maestro leapt to first and second place in the best sellers' table ahead of Ford's Escort and helped the

state-owned company to replace Ford as market leader in the first 20 days of April.

Ford made a great show of ending factory discounting last September to "restore stability to the market". It has been assisting its dealers in other ways ever since. The latest gives them a 1 per cent bonus on sales and is believed to amount to about £45 a car.

The low level of Ford assistance was causing concern to the company's dealers last night. They insist that if Ford intends to defend its hard-won 30 per cent leadership of recent years it will have to increase bonuses.

The sales director of one of the largest Ford dealerships in the country said: "There are too many cars being sold too few buyers and in that situation only money talks. We are in danger of falling behind."

Another Ford dealer said: "The sticker price of a car today means nothing. Nobody pays that. It is what you can get that sets the real price."

In an attempt to "hype the market" for its latest car, the Orion, in preparation for the debut of Austin Rover's new Montego, Ford has authorized dealers to place up to nine new demonstrators with potential fleet buyers on extended loan. After that they will be offered for sale at heavily discounted prices.

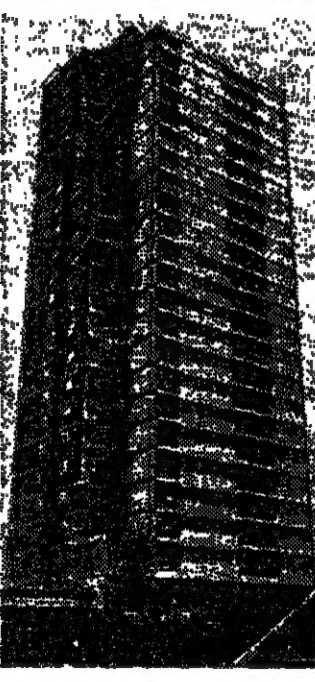
## Council pressed to empty Ronan Point

By Robin Young

An east London Borough's housing committee is to decide whether to evacuate Ronan Point, in East Ham, the tower block which partly collapsed, causing four deaths in 1968.

Mr Sam Webb, senior lecturer in advanced technology at the Canterbury School of Architecture, who had surveyed the block on behalf of tenants, described it as "a building with AIDS".

He said that bowed wall



Ronan Point: "Cracking up"

panels constituted an immediate fire risk and that there was evidence that the building was incapable of withstanding high wind. "It has aged very prematurely and shows faults that might be expected in a building 10 times its age. It is literally cracking up."

Newham housing department had rehoused 15 households, including elderly and disabled tenants, but its officers argued against a recommendation by the housing committee chairman, Mr Fred Jones, that surveys and remedial work might continue while tenants remain in residence.

Mr Jones said that although Ronan Point had been rebuilt and strengthened after the collapse caused by a gas explosion in 1968, it was inferior to more recently built blocks.

Newham has a total of 109 tower blocks housing 21,000 people. Ronan Point is one of nine 22 storey blocks in the Freemasons Estate, East Ham, built to the same specifications.

Mr Jones said: "I do not think the tenants will be satisfied by anything less than a controlled test on site while the block is unoccupied."

Mr Webb said that Newham council had been unable to locate layout plans for the building's floor slabs and wall panels, but officers had proposed to start removing panels next week while the building is occupied.

## Newspaper censured for 'smear' on CND

A 1½ in high front-page headline in *The Standard*, the London evening newspaper, was an unjustifiable smear on the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and should not have been published, the Press Council ruled yesterday.

Upholding the complaint, the council said this treatment of a report of a demonstration against cruise missile deployment was irresponsible in the extreme. The headline was misleading and unacceptably sensational.

The council upheld complaints by Mr Simon Leftwich, of Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey, and Mr David Cormack, of Sydenham, south London, that a headline suggesting an association, possibly even collusion, between CND and the IRA was an attempt by the newspaper to smear the CND.

Three days after the Harrods bomb explosion *The Standard's* story, headlined "CND Holding Hands with IRA", began by saying police had criticized spontaneous CND "holding hands with IRA bombers".

Reporting two London anti-nuclear demonstrations, it said more than 200 police officers had been reassigned to handle them from watching for terrorist bombers. An unnamed police inspector in Trafalgar Square was quoted as saying police were watching the demonstrators rather than doing what they should be.

If another bomb went off in central London the demonstrators could be held culpable, he said.

The final edition that day also carried a statement by CND's chairperson, Miss Joan Ruddock, repudiating the suggestion that CND had any contact or sympathy with the

## Howe tries to open up Japan to UK arms

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

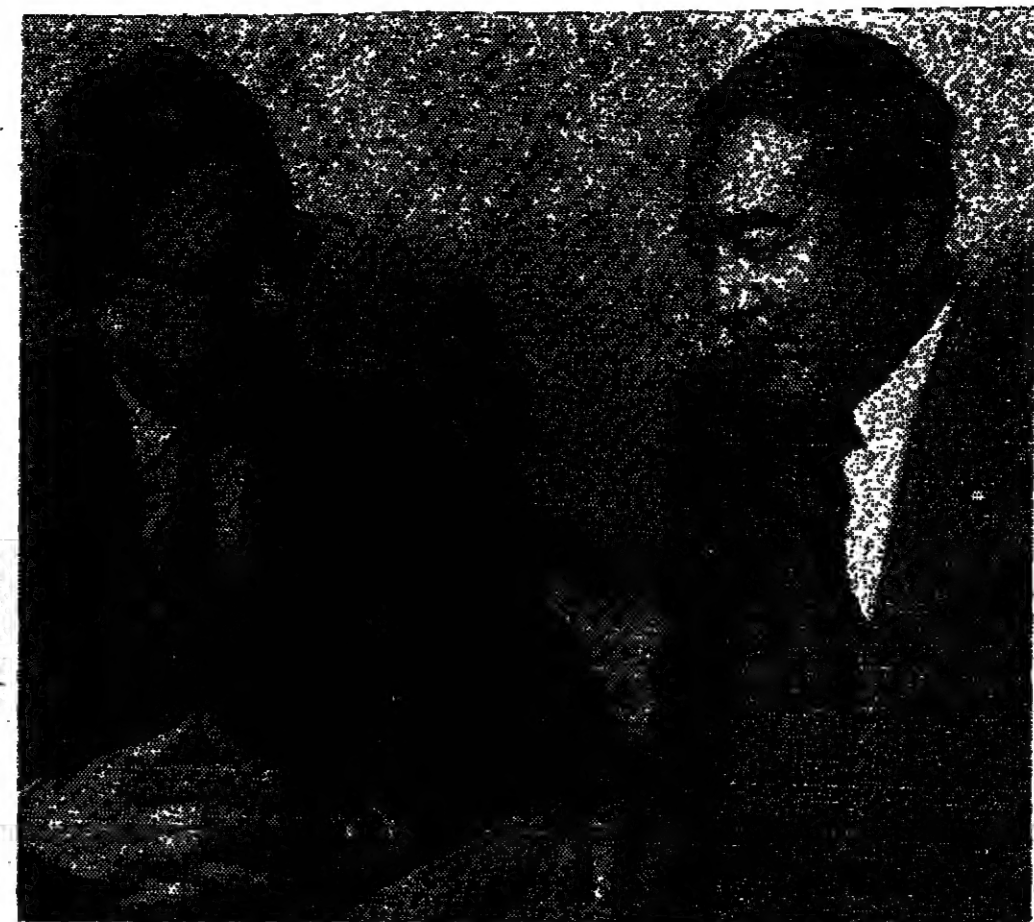
Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, has encouraged Japan to consider the purchase of British-made Harrier jets, and other military equipment including underwater radar, to cut Britain's chronic trade deficit with Japan.

Sir Geoffrey, who ended his visit to Japan yesterday, made the suggestion in his talks with Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese foreign minister. Mr Abe said he would refer the request to the "parties concerned", but avoided any specific commitment.

Japan's reluctance to diversify its arms procurement policy is a result of heavy dependence on the United States for both military equipment and licences to produce sophisticated weaponry, such as jet aircraft. Japanese officials also point to the enormous cost of acquiring peripheral support equipment in any new weapons systems purchase.

Throughout his visit, Sir Geoffrey emphasized the partnership between Japan and Britain while urging Japan to take further steps to open its markets to trade and allow the yen to play a more international role. On Friday the Japanese Government approved a package of trade measures designed to reduce tensions in its trading relations with Europe and the United States.

Sir Geoffrey commented that this was the third occasion that Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, had involved himself in promoting a better atmosphere for imported products. The package contains a series of tariff cuts and other



Tokyo get-together: Sir Geoffrey Howe with Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, after their talks

measures to improve access to Japan's markets, including high-technology trade.

Other actions to liberalize Japan's financial and capital markets were not announced yesterday but are expected to be completed in May before the seven industrial nation's summit meeting in London in June.

Mr Nakasone has cancelled most of his plans to visit Europe after the summit due to the parliamentary schedule at home. However, he will spend an extra day in Britain.

Sir Geoffrey, leaving for home, defended his decision to continue his Asian tour through Hongkong, China, South Korea and Japan in spite of the embassy shooting incident in London which prompted Bri-

tain to break relations with Libya. He had been in constant and close touch with London, he told British reporters. "It would have been quite wrong to have cancelled" the schedule, he said. The visits to Japan and South Korea had "self-contained" importance.

330 planes sold: British Aerospace has sold 330 first-generation Harriers, including 147 (23 of them two-seat trainers) to the RAF and 52 Sea Harriers to the Royal Navy. The present price is between £6m and £7m (Henry Stanhope writes).

The only big export order has been that for 110 from the United States Marine Corps. The Spanish Navy has bought

13 and the Indian Navy eight.

The next generation Harrier2, sometimes known as the AV3B, which is being built in collaboration with the American company McDonnell Douglas, so far has attracted interest from the RAF which is taking 62 and the US Marines, who have plans to buy as many as 342. The first of these has been handed over to the Marines and the RAF should start taking delivery in 1986.

The Falklands war provided an impressive showcase for the aircraft, but its limited performance has so far made some potential buyers think twice. Harrier2 should attract more sales, but prospects look brightest for a super-sonic version in the 1990s.

## Socialists go all-out to avert Catalonia setback

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

All Spanish politicians' eyes are focused this weekend on tomorrow's elections to Catalonia's Parliament, which has become a test of the popularity of Spain's 16-month-old Socialist Government.

Public opinion polls published in four newspapers, all putting Señor Jordi Pujol, Catalonia's outgoing Chief Minister and leader of the centre-right party Convergència i Unió, in the lead, shook the Government in Madrid.

Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, first sent to Barcelona two of his Catalan cabinet ministers, then Señor Alfonso Guerra, his deputy, and was due himself to wind up the Socialist campaign there last night in his role as the party's secretary-general.

Señor Raimón Obiols, the Catalan Socialist candidate for Chief Minister, has spoken frankly the elections while on the campaign trail about what was

at stake. Those who put the Socialists' well in the lead everywhere in Catalonia during Spain's 1982 general election must not now, he said, "leave Felipe in the lurch".

The Catalan poll involving over four million voters will serve as a yardstick as to how the Government's popularity is standing up having to implement crisis economic measures.

Señor Pujol, a Catalan nationalist, can anticipate a "gratitude vote" among fellow-Catalans for the achievement of setting up the region's autonomous government.

The 135-seat Catalan Parliament is the first to have completed a full term since its predecessor was swept away by Bourbon capitalism at the beginning of the 19th century.

The Socialists have to get to the polling stations the Castilian-speaking voters.

Señor Pujol can be more confident that middle-class and working-class Catalans will be thinking of reaffirming their regional feeling against the Government's slowness in transferring power from Madrid to the autonomous government.

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

According to Navy sources in Bilbao, the French authorities have been calling on their Spanish counterparts with increasing frequency to help to control the situation in the Bay of Biscay, in order "to avoid a repetition of the incident of last month" in which a French warship fired on two Spanish fishing vessels, seriously wounding several fishermen.

The 10 vessels, which are the subject of possible disciplinary action, were allegedly fishing off limits last Saturday. On Thursday, French maritime patrol aircraft reported they sighted 14 Spanish vessels fishing illegally in EEC waters in the Bay of Biscay.

The move was interpreted as an indication that the Government intended to crack down on violators. It is also believed to reflect fears here that continuing violations could lead the French Government to ask the EEC to cancel licences granted to the Spanish fishing fleet, on the grounds that Spain is not respecting its fisheries agreement with the Community.

Mr Shcherbitsky had especially harsh words for Mr Mikhail Khromykh, the Agricultural Minister, saying that Ukrainian farming was still suffering big difficulties because of his failure to improve farm management.

Mr Leftwich told the council the inference of the headline was quite different from that of the police inspector's statement.

Separately, the general secretary of CND, Mr Bruce Kent, was one of "11 others who complained to the council about the headline. He withdrew when he said he was astonished that the council had rejected complaints against other newspapers about an incident at Newbury involving Mr Michael Heseltine.

He said it was a great loss when public trust in the council's impartiality had been undermined by its own actions.

The editor, Mr Louis Kirby, told Mr Kent that *The Standard*, while not supporting a one-sided nuclear disarmament, did not doubt the sincerity of most CND followers.

If Mr Kent's complaint was that the headline implied that CND in some way supported the IRA he would be happy to publish a letter with a footnote making clear that *The Standard* believed no such thing.

An oral inquiry was attended by Mr Leftwich and Mr Cormack, Mr Roy Wright, deputy editor, and Mr Bob Graham, the reporter who wrote the story.

Mr Leftwich told the complaints committee that as a CND member he felt smeared by the headline.

The *Standard* was censured by the council.

## Kohl intervenes in dispute on women soldiers

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The statement on Monday by a junior Defence Minister that the Bundeswehr will start recruiting women has provoked sharp controversy within the coalition government, has been strongly attacked by the Opposition and has forced embarrassed government spokesmen to deny that any firm, final plans have been made.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl tried to quell the row by stating that no woman will take up service with weapons under his Government and said there will be no national service for women.

Herr Peter Boenisch, the government spokesman, said a statement by Herr Peter Wübbach, State Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, to the mass-circulation newspaper *Bild* that the Army would recruit 1,000 volunteers next year, as the first step towards a total intake of 15,000, has been interpreted too sweepingly.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Minister and leader of the junior Free Democratic party in the Government, was annoyed at the statement, and insisted that the heads of the coalition parties should first discuss recruiting women and lengthening national service for men to compensate for a drop in the birth rate.

The opposition Social Democrats and the Greens have

accused the Government of disregarding a constitutional ban on the recruitment of women in the Army. During the Second World War, some 450,000 women were conscripted into the Wehrmacht to free men for fighting at the front, and many women worked in the armaments industry. This influenced the decision to forbid the enlistment of women in the Bundeswehr.

Much of the criticism appears to be levelled indirectly at Herr Manfred Wörner. The embattled Defence Minister, who is still under a cloud because of the Kiesling affair. His plans for dealing with the manpower shortage now facing the Bundeswehr have been criticized as being inadequate to maintain the size of the army, and thus lowering the nuclear threshold.

Yesterday, Herr Erwin Horn, the social democratic defence spokesman, called on Herr Wörner to distance himself from the remarks of his junior minister. Herr Horn said the Social Democrats did not regard the present manpower strength of the Army as a sacred cow. However, General Gerd Schmückle, the former deputy commander-in-chief of Nato, criticized what he called Herr Wörner's lack of a concept for the Bundeswehr, and expressed doubts about the minister's qualities as a leader.

## Naples hopes new mayor will cure its ailments

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Signor Vincenzo Scotti, the new Mayor of Naples, is the first Christian Democrat to hold the office after some nine years of Communist rule. He has agreed to remain for three months to launch an emergency programme to meet the city's huge problems.

Signor Scotti, a youthful 50-year-old, is regarded as an emerging figure in the Christian Democratic Party at national level. He is now deputy secretary and has held a series of ministries, including labour, the arts, and civil protection, which have allowed him to demonstrate his undoubted energies.

His Neapolitan background and national connections are taken in the city to mean that more attention will be given in Rome to the disastrous condition of Neapolitan finances and public services.

The Communists took over the municipality after local

government elections in 1975. Their mayor was Senator Maurizio Valenzi, a respected figure with a gift for remaining in the public eye. He was forced to resign last autumn, and no lasting answer was found to the question of who should be mayor of a city approaching unmanageability.

Signor Scotti has made it clear that he wants cooperation from the Communists in halting the city's administrative decay. Local problems were made worse by the 1981 earthquake.

He has formed a five-party coalition similar to the national Government, but he does not have a majority. So he asked the Communists "not to seal themselves off in harsh opposition but to understand that the quality of this emergency administration itself depends also on them".

## Philippine poll frauds attacked by cardinal

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Cardinal Jaime Sin, the Roman Catholic Primate of the Philippines, yesterday condemned as "immoral and sinful" voter registration frauds, the buying and selling of voters' forms, and massive overspending during the current parliamentary election campaign.

Cardinal Sin, an outspoken critic of the Marcos Government, also denounced the disappearance and summary execution of some anti-Marcos activists during the 45-day election campaign which began on March 27.

Cardinal Sin denounced "disturbing trends" in his two-page circular to all bishops and priests in his archdiocese. He was particularly critical of the multiple registration by thousands of voters during last month's four-day registration period and the buying and selling of voters' forms.

"Buying the voters' forms violates the sanctity of the poor by exploiting their situation of poverty."

## Troops seal off Dakar campus

From Susan MacDonald, Dakar

President Abdou Diouf of Senegal has ordered troops to seal off the University of Dakar, where students in nearly all the faculties have been on strike for more than a month.

In a lengthy statement Mr Ibrahim Fall, the Minister for Higher Education, last Friday accused the student ring-leaders of hardening their position whenever agreement on their grievances seemed imminent. Now the President has called in the Army and appealed to students to return to work.

All roads leading to the university are guarded by troops armed with batons, shields and visors, while the campus itself is patrolled by the elite Berets.

The grievances listed by the students are numerous and include an increase in grants and better transport, lodging and restaurant facilities. However, it would seem that they are really worried about the bleak future that awaits them once they have obtained degrees.

## PARLIAMENT April 27 1984

### Safety plea over bike stunts

#### CYCLE TRACKS

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, appealed in the Commons to parents of young riders of BMX bikes to limit their children's dangers to pedestrians and other cyclists of performing great stunts on their machines in inappropriate areas instead of on cycle tracks.

Mrs Chalker was speaking on the subject of the Cycle Tracks Bill, private member's measure, and said its remaining stages and was sent to the house of Lords. The Bill changes the criteria for provision of cycle tracks and excludes cyclists from cycle tracks.

She said that the Bill struck the right balance between seeking improved conditions for cyclists and ensuring that the legitimate interests of others were not overlooked.

The rate of increase of cycling accidents had unfortunately kept pace with the increase in the number of accidents notified. In 1982, the last year for which full figures were available, 20 cyclists had been killed and 5,700 seriously injured. The figures were unacceptable and the Bill was one way to help local highway authorities provide for cycle tracks which could be used for safety cycling.

A publicity campaign was being prepared, aimed at increasing motorists' awareness of cyclists; at

improving cyclists' behaviour on the road; and at reducing the number of cycle accidents involving children. She hoped they would have some television campaigns because these had been found to be successful.

Failure by cyclists to observe the rules of the road and traffic regulations imperilled themselves and pedestrians and there was a grave worry about failure to use lights.

It was her policy, clearly understood by her officials, that cyclists' needs must be considered in all preparation of trunk road proposals. Where provision for cyclists was justified it would be made. It was not their policy to ban cyclists from trunk roads, but there might be circumstances where they should be banned from particular locations, and alternative routes made available.

Earlier, during the report stage, Mrs Chalker said the safety of the elderly and blind and partially sighted would not be endangered by proposals to allow footpaths to be converted to cycle tracks.

The Bill amends the definition of cycle tracks in the Highway Act 1980 and allows footpaths to be available for cyclists and some have been signed. From time to time they are closed agricultural land and when they did so, councils should be clearly signed as safe.

The amendment was agreed to.

### A deep-seated objection to seated objections

#### PROCEDURE

The long-standing practice of Government Whips not standing when they object on Fridays to the further progress of private members' Bill of the day disapproves was challenged at the end of Commons sitting when all Bills which had not been discussed during the day's sitting were deferred, or not moved.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham, North-West, Lab) said that the public found it strange that Bills of great importance, relevance and significance could be killed without the person telling them being identified in the Official Report.

Mr Clement Freud (North-East Cambridgeshire, Lib) said that in *Hansard* it would appear as "Hon Members Object" when it was one person, but might appear as if the entire House or a multitudinous number of MPs had objected.

Mr Walker suggested that the matter should be raised with the procedure committee or by a motion. It was a matter for the House, not for the committee, he said, referring to the quotations by Mr Jenner of definitions of the word "speak".

Among the Bills deferred was the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill which has completed all stages in the House of Lords. This was put down for consideration next Friday.

### Talks offer on video recordings

#### HOUSE OF LORDS

The Video Recordings Bill, which would impose a system of classification for video tapes and control the distribution of video nasties, would be almost unworkable unless videos made for export were included in the measure, Lord Mishcon (Lab) said in the House of Lords during the Bill's committee stage.

Lord Nugent of Guildford said such an amendment would create practical problems and could endanger the Bill as by adding substantial amendments it was likely to be talked out when it returned to the Commons.

Lord Houghton of Sowerby and Lord Bessborough of Alba (C) withdrew their amendments after Lord Elton said he would discuss the proposals with them and consider talks with the broadcasting authorities.

An amendment to exempt current video recordings from the scope of the Bill was rejected by 42 votes to nine - majority against 33. The committee stage was adjourned.



## CIA chief apologises to Senate committee on mining of Nicaragua ports

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr William Casey, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has apologised for not keeping senators better informed about the agency's role in the mining of harbours in Nicaragua. He confirmed that the mining has been stopped.

He faced the Senate intelligence committee for two hours in a fence-building session that followed a furor over disclosures of mining operations carried out earlier this year in Nicaragua's three principal ports - Corinto, Puerto Sandino, and El Bluff.

After the apology, Senator Patrick Moynihan withdrew his resignation as the committee's vice-chairman. He quit the post in protest at not being kept informed of the mining operation, which President Reagan sanctioned personally. Mr Casey, a millionaire, was Mr Reagan's election director in 1980.

The apology was part of a deal worked out in recent days to reduce tension between the CIA and the Senate intelligence committee, which has the legal

### Costa Rica blow for Pastora

Nicaraguan exiles said their political base in Costa Rica has been closed on the orders of the American CIA (Reuters reports from San José). In a radio interview Señor Eden Pastora, military leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (Arde) accused the Costa Rican Government of obeying CIA orders. He said it was to force Arde into an alliance with right-wing CIA-funded insurgents launching attacks from Honduras.

The fence-mending agreement comes at a time of tension between Congress and the White House over US activities in Central America. Mr Reagan is meeting stiff opposition to his request for \$21m in aid to guerrillas fighting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, who were almost certainly involved in the mining of the Nicaraguan ports.

● **THE HAGUE** - The United States accused Nicaragua of trying to turn the International Court of Justice into a political forum (AFP reports).

Nicaragua has come to the court alleging that the United States has violated international law by mining its ports and launching covert activities.

Mr Davis Robinson the State Department's legal advisor began yesterday's second public session by disputing the court's jurisdiction over this case. The court was not the appropriate place because the issue was not limited to Nicaragua, he said. The vital interests of neighbouring states were at stake, and the United Nations and the Organisation of American States were already involved in the matter.

Nicaragua had "never accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of this court", Mr Robinson said, and as such its bid to invoke the court could only be viewed as politically motivated.

right to be kept fully informed of all intelligence activities. Mr Casey promised to improve ways of keeping the committee informed about undercover operations, particularly activities such as the Nicaraguan operation.

Many Republicans and conservative Democrats urged Mr Moynihan to withdraw his resignation from the vice-chairmanship of the Senate committee, fearing that a new incumbent might be less sympathetic to Mr Reagan's policies in Central America.

In a formal statement, the committee said it had been agreed that "it was not adequately informed in a timely manner of certain significant intelligence activity in such a manner as to permit the committee to carry out its oversight function".

Mr Casey has a history of tense relations with the Senate intelligence committee, members of which gave him a hostile reception when they interviewed him for his appointment.



Senator Moynihan. Quit his post in protest.

### Rioters get pledge on food prices

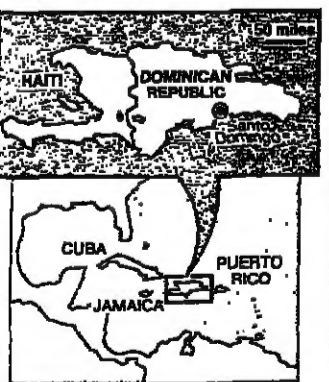
Santo Domingo (Reuters) - Offices, shops and factories in the Dominican Republic reopened yesterday as people returned to work after food riots killed more than 50.

Security officials said patrols continued in Santo Domingo and 20 other towns and villages torn by violence when the poor of this Caribbean nation protested against 50 per cent price rises decreed by the International Monetary Fund.

The officials said many of the 5,000 people detained during the disturbances were being released after identification. Streets and parks, littered by barricades and remnants of burnt tyres, were being cleared.

Government officials and IMF negotiators continued secret talks on easing the republic's economic problems. The loan talks centre on terms for renewal of a \$450m (£321m) IMF credit extended to the republic to ease a \$2.6 billion external debt, consuming about 20 per cent of the gross domestic product.

● **Prices pledge:** The Government said it would now try to ease the impact of food price increases (AP reports). More government food stores, which sell food at less-than-market prices, would be established, and efforts would be made to raise the wages of public employees.



### Anti-pollution ministers won by cash argument

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A European ministerial conference on the environment, which ended in Athens yesterday, endorsed guidelines for reconciling economic development and protection of the environment, especially in coastal areas, river banks and lake shores.

The "policy guide" prepared by Greece, introduces a new concept in arguing that environmental protection can actually enhance economic development.

It was in this sense that the participants from 21 member states of the Council of Europe, including 18 ministers, urged their governments to consider the cost of such protection should be inseparable from "normal development costs".

Mr William Wilkinson, chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council, who represented Britain, said this new approach was the single most important achievement of the three-day conference. "Now it is of so much development

versus environment," he said. "To get the best economic results, we must bring them together."

One example, according to Mr Wilkinson, was that pollution control in many cases led to economies in fuel consumption. "I think this is a new way of looking at things," he said.

Mr Antonis Tritis, the Greek Environment Minister, chaired the conference in Vouliagmeni, a seaside resort at least 12 miles from the highly polluted capital. He said: "The main conclusion of the conference was a cry for action before it is too late". It had opened the way for transnational legislation and had served as a counter for the exchange of experience on how to monitor the problems and coordinate programmes.

"Whatever we decide here," he added, "becomes a weapon in the hands of the people, who can always invoke it to demand protection for their environment."



Debris of war: An Iraqi soldier looking at the wreckage of an Iranian Phantom jet and other military equipment displayed in an open air museum in Baghdad.

### Iraqi Navy attacks three more ships

Baghdad (Reuters) - Three more vessels came under fire from Iraqi naval gunners yesterday as Baghdad kept up efforts to deter ships from using Iran's ports at the head of the Gulf.

A military spokesman here said all three "enemy naval targets" were left blazing after Iraqi naval vessels opened fire in an area which Baghdad has barred to shipping because of its war with Iran.

None of the ships was named, but Iraq's reference to "enemy targets" in the past has been taken to identify Iranian vessels or foreign merchant ships plying the northern reaches of the Gulf.

Iraq has so far issued no statement regarding the Saudi-owned tanker Safina al-Arab, which had an explosion on board in the north of the Gulf on Wednesday night.

Crew taken on board rescue

vessels said at first they believed the tanker was hit by a missile or a mine, but there were conflicting reports yesterday as to what caused the blast.

● **BAHRAIN:** A Dutch salvage team said yesterday it had extinguished a fire that started on board the Safina al-Arab (Reuters reports).

● **GENEVA:** Iran is asking the United Nations to try to find out if other countries helped

Iraq manufacture chemical weapons it is alleged to have used in the Gulf war. Mr Hossein Sheikholeslam, an Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, said at a press conference here yesterday (Reuters reports).

Meanwhile, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported in Tehran that Hojatoleslam Mahdi Shahabadi, a clergyman and parliamentary deputy, was killed by shrapnel during an inspection tour of the Gulf war

### Cosmonauts take time to crack a nut

Moscow (Reuters) - A nut that refused to turn delayed Soviet cosmonauts' maintenance work on the Salyut 7 space station during a spacewalk on Thursday, *Trud* newspaper reported.

Snatches of conversation between the cosmonauts and ground control showed that the cosmonauts had to make several attempts to remove a nut on a reserve fuel conduit they were servicing.

"Have you managed to move the nut a bit?" asked Yuri Romanenko, a former cosmonaut at Moscow mission control.

"Nope, no way," answered Leonid Kizim, a cosmonaut, from outside the space station. "The fourth spanner won't grip."

"Try to hit the nut with something," suggested Romanenko.

After several more exchanges with earth, in which the cosmonauts said they were afraid they might damage a vent on the fuel system by hitting the nut, ground control advised the cosmonauts to try a different type of wrench.

At one stage Kizim shouted: "One, two, and off it comes." But his delight was ill-advised, as the nut remained stuck. The cosmonauts had to spend another 40 minutes while their spacecraft was in the dark shadow of the Earth before the nut came off and maintenance work could be completed.

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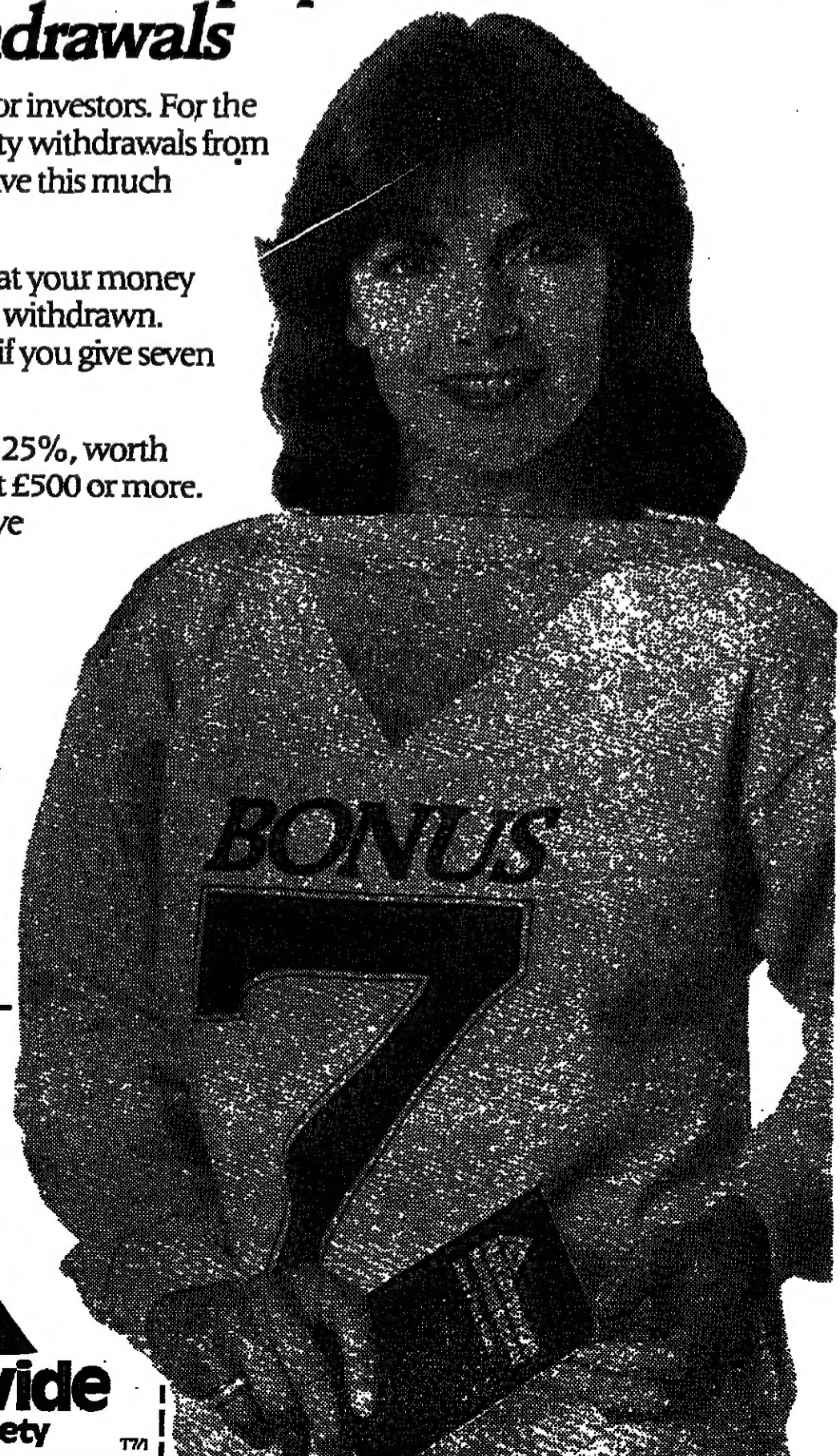
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# Zhao criticizes Reagan on Central America and Taiwan

From David Bonavia, Peking

China "is not in agreement" with aspects of the Central American policy of the United States, President Reagan was told in Peking yesterday by Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister.

A US spokesman reported this to a massed corps of American and other foreign journalists in Peking's newest American-style luxury hotel.

The Chinese leader also told Mr Reagan that China is displeased by his administration's continuing support for Taiwan, especially arms sales.

The President's talks with Mr Zhao covered Afghanistan, Cambodia, Central America, the Middle East, Southern Africa and economic developments in the Third World.

On Central America, Mr Reagan "heavily emphasized" US economic assistance, the spokesman said. "At the same time he emphasized that there is a military problem caused by the Soviet Union."

On Korea, China had reiterated its suggestion for a tripartite conference of North and South Korea and the United States, whereas Washington would like to see China - as a former belligerent in the Korean war - included in such talks.

A solution suggested by diplomats here is that China might host a conference of the two Koreas and the United States, without itself attending in an official capacity.

The Chinese have repeated to

Mr Reagan their criticisms of US controls affecting China's textile exports, and American restrictions on items of high technology which China would like to buy. However, it has been announced that an agreement on China's purchase of American nuclear technology for peaceful uses will be initiated during the President's visit.

President Reagan told an audience of Chinese community leaders here yesterday that the United States was founded by people "who sought freedom to worship God". At a meeting in the Great Hall of the People, he said the American Revolution was "the first great uprising for human rights and independence against colonial rule".

The President praised "economic reform for legitimate risk and honest toil" as the basis of success. Observers recall that this is the basis of the economic policy espoused by Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese elder statesman, with whom Mr Reagan has not had talks.

American journalists accompanying the President feel he has not been given as many opportunities as he would like to make direct contact with ordinary Chinese people. White House officials are understood to be disappointed that banquet speeches and yesterday's talks with community leaders were not broadcast live.

This is widely interpreted as a symbolic gesture by the Chinese leaders to protest against the



Panda diplomacy: Mrs Nancy Reagan holding hands with Zhengzheng as the seven-month-old panda drinks its milk at Peking Zoo. Mrs Reagan handed over two Jeeps and \$13,000 collected by American children to save pandas at risk from a bamboo shortage.

Administration's continued refusal to downgrade its relations with Taiwan.

In a speech prepared for a banquet last night, Mr Reagan noted that China hoped to quadruple its production by the year 2000, and said the American people "wish you

success and offer you our cooperation in this great endeavour".

● PEKING - British and Chinese officials yesterday began a thirteenth round of talks on the future of Hong Kong, seemingly unaffected by ministerial negotiations last week (Reuter reports).

The normal line-up of negotiators, headed by Mr Zhao Nan on the Chinese side and Sir Richard Evans, the Ambassador, on the British side, met in the Diaoyu state guesthouse. Neither side disclosed the content of the talks.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, announced last week after this talks in Peking with Chinese leaders that Britain would relinquish sovereignty and administrative powers over Hong Kong when its lease on most of the territory runs out in 1997.

## Sikh temple under siege after seven shot dead

Delhi (Reuters) - Indian security forces laid siege to a Sikh temple yesterday after at least seven people died in a gun battle in the northern Indian state of Punjab, police said.

The seven were killed on Thursday in an exchange of fire between extremists on the temple roof in the town of Moga and units of the paramilitary Border Security Force, a spokesman said.

"Some extremists may still be inside the temple," he said. "We have arrested 11 people so far."

As troops ringed the shrine yesterday, those inside appealed to the authorities on the temple's public address system to enter and remove two seriously wounded people.

The Press Trust of India news agency said security force officers demanded that the injured should be brought outside before being given medical attention.

The siege follows a series of fresh attacks in the turbulent state, where most of India's 12 million Sikhs live. An electrician was shot dead on Thursday night in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar. In another district, gunmen killed a merchant.

The PTI said some train services were cancelled after extremists dynamited stretches of railway track. No casualties were reported in the bombings.

The siege of the Moga shrine followed Indian leaders' statements that those responsible for the communal violence were using the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, as a refuge from the security forces.

Security forces have not entered the shrine, apparently respecting the Sikh tradition of giving sanctuary to any visitor and out of fear of provoking further unrest.

An Indian opposition leader returned from Amritsar yesterday and appealed to the Government to invite Sikh leaders for talks to pacify the state.

Mr Subramanian Swamy, deputy leader of the Janata party, urged the Government to respond to some demands of the Sikhs' main political party. The Akali Dal for religious and political concessions.

## Secret prison talks Solidarity leaders might be released

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The eleven imprisoned Solidarity leaders and advisers accused of trying to overthrow the Communist state have been holding secret talks with the Polish authorities about the possibility of releasing some of them.

In talks with visiting dignitaries, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate, frequently alludes to the necessity of releasing the 11 prisoners, and indeed the 400 other political offenders, before the situation can return to normal.

The members of the Kor dissident group in jail apart from Mr Kurok and Mr Michnik are Henry K. Wojcik and Zbigniew Romaszowski. The Solidarity seven, some of whom are in poor health, are: Andrzej Gajdzia, Seweryn Jaworski, Jan Rulewski, Marian Jurczyk, Grzegorz Palica, Karol Modzelewski and Andrzej Rozplochowicz.

● Discredit campaign: The Polish government has stepped up its campaign to discredit the Solidarity underground ahead of planned demonstrations on May Day and May 3. In an interview to be published in all official newspapers today, the head of the Polish secret service, General Wladyslaw Cieloski, said that previous attempts to demonstrate against the Government had proved to be fiascos. "The so called underground would have ceased to exist long ago were it not for the moral encouragement and material help from the West... myths of the 'underground' and 'social resistance' are tottering and falling apart, and an increasing number of followers acknowledge with bitterness their own political defeat."

He then referred to allegations of mass graves, although neither the bishops nor Mr Nikome have spoken in such terms.

Nikala's remarks, which were made in the Matabeland capital of Bulawayo, fall far short of an official announcement of an investigation into what happened in Matabeland South between the introduction of a curfew on February 3 and the lifting of the most stringent restrictions three weeks ago.

There has been no official acknowledgment of wrong doing by the security forces and last week Mr Magabe praised the Army for restraint and performing "a wonderful duty" in Matabeland.

Senator Nikala, himself a Ndebele although a member of Mr Magabe's Zanu (PF) party, said: "Nikome and his bishops can choose the time to call us and we will go with them so they can show us the graves."

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## Challenge on graves accepted by bishop

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

A Zimbabwe Government minister has challenged Roman Catholic Church leaders and Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the opposition Zanu party, to point out graves of civilians said to have been killed by the Army in the curfew area of Matabeland.

Senator Enos Nikala, Minister of National Supplies, said two unnamed government ministers would visit Matabeland to investigate allegations of military atrocities, including killing, torture, beatings and systematic starvation of the Ndebele minority.

In response, the Rt Rev Henry Karlen, the Catholic Bishop of Matabeland, said he would be willing to present evidence and had no doubt priests at missions in the curfew area would feel the same.

Bishop Karlen and other members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference submitted a report on army brutality to the Government earlier this month. The bishop subsequently singled out by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, as an agent of Mr Nkomo and Zanu.

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## Hart stays ahead to carry Utah

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Final results in the Utah caucuses gave a resounding victory to Senator Gary Hart - his most decisive win in a state primary. Some states operated a complex dual system, using both caucuses and primary to elect delegates to convention, which selects the presidential nominee.

Utah's caucuses involved what were billed as "mass meetings" to select delegates. In fact, only 10,000 people turned up throughout the state, a minute portion of registered Democrats.

The same pattern was seen in Missouri on April 18 and in Arizona on April 14, when the estimated turnout of registered Democrats was 40,000 and 33,000 respectively. Rarely does turnout exceed 10 per cent in a caucus. One of the worst on record was in Missouri in 1980, when one-tenth of 1 per cent of eligible Democrats attended caucus meetings.

● Terror plea: President Reagan has asked Congress urgently to approve far-reaching legislation aimed at detecting, frustrating and punishing terrorists both in United States and abroad.

In a letter to Congress he said: "It is essential that we act immediately to cope with this menace and to increase cooperation with other governments in dealing with this growing threat to our way of life."

The letter and four bills were released by the White House on Thursday on behalf of the President.

Rev Jesse Jackson 3 per cent. The remaining votes were for uncommitted delegates.

As usual in caucuses throughout the country, the turn-out was a fraction of registered Democrats eligible to vote. The caucus system is a lengthy process in which voters are required to attend meetings

in a clear sign of the way things will go in Brazil after the Government's narrow victory this week over legislation for direct presidential elections this year. President Figueiredo said that "the phase of the President running the country in isolation is ended".

The leader of the ruling Social Democratic Party, Senator Joao Sarney, said that the President wanted to start negotiating with all parties immediately.

There was sporadic disturbances in São Paulo yesterday. They had no political conno-

tion, being confined to some of the mass of unemployed who hang around the city centre, they were taking advantage of the tense atmosphere to break through windows and loot. The disorders were over by early evening.

Censorship on television and radio has been lifted, and other emergency controls in Brasilia have been adopted.

The opposition is undecided on whether to suspend demonstrations during negotiations with a Government that suffered a bad blow in Thursday's vote.

After the general had screened a film showing recent Vietnamese incursions on the eastern border, a former Government minister in the audience asked why Thailand should not claim the right to pursue Vietnamese troops back into Cambodia, given that Vietnam claimed to have entered Thailand in pursuit of resistance guerrillas.

General Arthit's assertions about the "Vietnamization" of Cambodia are accepted by few independent observers.

Since last November Viet-

nam has permitted men in its huge occupation army to marry Cambodian women, as part of the process of obliteration of the Khmers, he added.

The Hanoi Government's aim, he said, was to create a new race in Cambodia to facilitate the creation of an Indo-China federation dominated by Vietnam.

## The Zola Budd story South African press turns on Britain

Every twist and turn of the battle of Zola Budd, the spindly-legged "bullet from Bloem" as the 17-year-old athlete is known here, to win acceptance as a British runner, is being chronicled with obsessive interest in the South African press and has opened up new insights into the love-hate relationship with Britain.

Time and again over the past months her prospects have been the splash story on the front pages of both English and Afrikaans newspapers, displacing weightier news items about the latest diplomatic developments in southern Africa or the continuing conflict in Namibia.

Zola's treatment at Crystal Palace and Mrs Margaret Thatcher's denunciation of it, were given front-page treatment in nearly all newspapers, with Beeld, one of the leading Afrikaans dailies, making it the main story under the headline "Maggie tree vir Zola in bres" (Maggie steps into the breach for Zola).

It is, it should be said, a preoccupation confined almost entirely to South Africa's white population. The Budd affair has stirred up little black interest here, either for or against, any more than has the impending English rugby tour. Football is the only sport that truly arouses black passions, or has any sort of mass following.

There has been surprisingly little criticism directed at Miss Budd herself, perhaps because white South Africans are now getting used to their most talented sportsmen and sportswomen having the international competition that they are denied at home by the anti-apartheid boycott.

A few days after her departure, The Star, Johannesburg's evening newspaper, invited its readers to give their views by telephone on whether she was right to leave. In the space of two hours 101 callers almost all white - responded. Of these 97 said her action was justified and wished her luck.

To the extent that there has been criticism, it has been of the huggan-muggan way in which Miss Budd was spirited out of the country. Even members of her family were initially under the impression that she and her parents had gone on holiday in South Africa.

Mr Rudolf Opperman, president of the South African Sport Federation, drew an unfavourable comparison with the case of Sydney Marec, a gifted black runner now living in the United States, "who left with our blessings". Miss Budd, he said, "left in secrecy as if to seek asylum in Britain".

What the Budd affair has done above all else, however, is to touch the nerve of anti-

British feeling which is never far below the surface of Afrikaner society, though in this instance comment, in some English-language newspapers has been hardly less hostile.

The contrast between the lightning speed with which Miss Budd's citizenship papers were processed and the general British discouragement of sporting links with South Africa is widely seen as evidence of the Government's "double standards": allowing no sporting ties with South Africa when these are politically inexpedient, but falling over itself to snap up a South African athlete who might win an Olympic gold medal.

In this South African critics are at one, if for different reasons, with many Labour politicians and anti-apartheid lobbyists in Britain who, somewhat contradictorily, are castigated here for the "pettiness" and "meanness" of their reaction to Miss Budd's arrival.

"Is this really the country whose colours Zola, as she says, will be proud to wear on the Olympic track?" asked Beeld. The Sunday Express, regarded as a liberal newspaper, accused the British of "hating and exploiting their new child athlete as though it were a blood sport". The same leading article suggested that she would have done better "if she had quietly accepted an American scholarship, and aimed at the Olympic games in 1988". The Americans, the writer added pointedly, "have a tradition of generously accepting outsiders".

Miss Budd's extreme youth brought out an almost fatherly protective streak in the editor of The Citizen, a conservative English-language newspaper, which said that Mr Peter Pitt, chairman of the Greater London Councils Recreation Committee, was "a damned swine to threaten Zola in the way he has done" a reference to Mr Pitt's opposition to her running at Crystal Palace.

All this touchiness reflects the irritation here with Britain's continuing support for the Gleneagles Agreement, particularly under a Conservative Prime Minister of whom better things, from Pretoria's point of view, had been hoped.

The political columnist of Beeld thought he had found the explanation for the British attitude. "The Commonwealth and the illusion of greatness it can lend is all that stands between Britain and the status of a relatively unimportant European power" he wrote. The ostracism of South Africa in sport was an easy way of keeping black members of the Commonwealth happy.

Michael Hornsby

## Begum walks out on Zia

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

A Pakistani woman Minister has resigned because she believes that General Zia-ul-Haq's military regime does not want to grant equality to women in public affairs. Begum Afia Mamdot, the Minister of State for Women's Affairs who had served in the Government for about three years, said she considered it a waste of time to continue.

Begum Mamdot was recently transferred from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. She said in a press interview yesterday that she had demanded the status of full Minister for Women's Affairs to make it more effective in improving the lot of Pakistani women. She had also asked for the appointment of women as Minister and Minister of State for Women's Affairs.

Begum Mamdot who comes from a Western-educated Punjabi family, also referred to the non-acceptance of a select committee's report by the Federal Council, which acts as parliament under martial law. This recommended equality for women in cases heard under Islamic law involving compensation for murder or bodily harm. The matter has now been referred to another committee, apparently with a view of getting a reversal of the select committee's recommendations.

Begum Mamdot's resignation comes in the wake of women's resentment over the enactment of certain laws affecting women and increasing violence against women, often with police connivance. Last month two women were paraded naked by men in the streets of Nawabpur, a town near Multan, and two women were burnt to death in Lahore this week.

Women's organizations have asserted that General Zia, who has a strong Islamic bias, often surrenders to unjust and anachronistic demands from the mullahs who have gained ascendancy in political and social affairs. General Zia, however, has repeatedly claimed that he believes in women's equal participation in public affairs, subject to the Koran's injunctions.

## 15 killed in Midwest tornadoes

New York (AP) - Fifteen people have died in tornadoes sweeping America's Middle West. More than two dozen tornadoes were confirmed in Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Many of the deaths were in the small town of Morris, 40 miles south of Tulsa, where National Guardsmen were called in to help in rescue work. Local officials said the town's centre was "devastated".

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## Britain sending envoy to Angola rebels

Johannesburg (Reuters) - Britain has agreed to send an envoy to a rebel base in southern Angola to negotiate the release of 16 Britons and the Portuguese wife of one of the group, a British Embassy spokesman said yesterday.

He said the envoy would go as soon as possible to talk, on humanitarian grounds, with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) at its Jamba base.

On Thursday 89 men, women and children, including 66 Portuguese and 15 Filipinos, were flown to Johannesburg after negotiations between Unita and the International Red Cross.

Most of the prisoners, including the British, were captured in a Unita raid on the town of Kafunfo in February.

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## Thailand produces film to expose Vietnamese raids on civilians

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

A film is being made in Thailand to show the world evidence of Vietnamese aggression against Thai territory, and attacks on unarmed Cambodian civilians on the Thai-Cambodian border.

According to General Arthit Kanlaya-ET, the Thai supreme military commander, one Army photographer has been severely wounded while filming on the border, where fighting has been going on for most of April.

In a speech in Bangkok General Arthit challenged Vietnamese leaders including Mr Nguyen Co Thach, the Foreign Minister, to go to the Thai border to see the situation for themselves. He said he was prepared to accompany them.

Vietnam has denied allegations that it has intruded into

Thai territory in the past month.

The border conflict and other issues such as the alleged sinking by Vietnam of a Thai fishing boat, and amphibious training by Soviet forces on Vietnam's coast, have produced a new surge of Thai hostility towards Vietnam. During protests at the Vietnamese Embassy in Bangkok, and elsewhere, effigies of Vietnam's leaders have been burnt and trodden into the ground.

Newspaper editorials are often filled with fear and hatred towards Vietnam. General Arthit has provided some of the harshest comments. He has accused Vietnam of planning to swallow up the Khmer race. For every 100 Cambodian families, there were 15 Vietnamese families sent into Cambodia by Vietnam, he said.

Since last November Viet-

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THE ARTS

Irving Wardle encounters a pessimistic mood in the Broadway season  
A graveyard sign of the Times Square beat



The Human Comedy: back to seasonal renewal

Theatre in London  
Troubled waters

The Seagull  
Greenwich

Unlike his recent carve-up of *The White Devil* at this address, Philip Prowse's severely compressed and non-naturalistic *Seagull* is no act of directorial sacrilege; and for once, Mr Prowse's set commands less attention than his actors.

The set, needless to say, remains the most important single element in the show. It consists of a permanent arrangement of three leaf-smothered walls which double service as semi-realistic box and (by glaring frontal illumination) as a cyclorama conveying the sense of infinite space. Both uses contribute to the fluid, dream-like atmosphere that pervades the evening, coupled with a downstage platform which first appears as the stage for Konstantin's play (the auditorium becomes the lake), and remains in position as a secluded place of observation for characters excluded from the events.

Exclusion and detachment are the dominant motifs, announced from the start where the whole company assembles, each sitting in his own pool of silence, and addressing stray wisps of dialogue across the whole width of the stage. Thereafter the action unfolds with no break between the first three acts, and with frequent overlaps between one scene and another: so that Nina is left alone to watch the party assembling for dinner, or the dead bird is left where Konstantin throws it down to Nina, for Arkadina to kick it away in disgust in a later scene.

Mr Hyde  
New End

Alan Drury's *Sparrowfall*, a few years ago, was a wry picture of an executive elite covering up for scandalous and semi-insane behaviour by one of its number. Plunging into darkest Victorian sexuality and Jack the Ripper's supposed Masonic connexion, *Mr Hyde* is a much nastier piece which leaves an uneasy impression that our own society is somehow the real target.

The cluttered, windowless salon, encrusted with blood-red drapes, suggests the sort of club where Dracula is hourly expected. Not far wrong: the princely guest with the Hyde pseudonym never goes out without his tiny razor.

The gentlemen's pleasures in this establishment include lurid tableaux of sex and death enacted on a stage beneath a Masonic symbol. Class itself is seen as a freemasonry protecting its members absolutely while the lower ranks are exploited and killed. Hyde's claim to head "a superior order" is a delicate pun connecting secret society with class structure.

That is typical of Mr Drury's beautifully precise, elegant writing, which gives Pinterish

melancholy retreats to the keyboard, she twice raises a laugh.

The magic of the lake, and indeed the whole apparatus of "Chekhovian atmosphere", is firmly suppressed. Copious piano music begins with fumbling five-finger exercises and proceeds to romantic excess, suggesting the doomed course of a sentimental education so forcefully that when Polina refers to Konstantin's price of this cold-blooded approach is that some of the relationships fail to take root. There is small sense of any impending affair between Johanna Kirby's Nina and Ciaran Hinds's sour, charmless Trigorin, whose conversation sticks strictly to artistic matters; and Robert Gwilym puts such emphasis on the narcissistic penitence of the young Konstantin that it is hard to credit his lachrymose preparations for the final suicide.

On the negative side, however, the approach works brilliantly, in the case of Julie Legrand's waspish, sharp-featured Mascha, Richard Rees's desperately amiable schoolmaster, and, above all, Maria Aitken's Arkadina - a monstrous *théâtre de l'opéra* of invincible charm, exerting her will with flirtatious slaps and huge appealing eyes, and as much herself in falling into affectionate giggles with her brother as in exerting her implacable will on the defeated Trigorin. "I'm not cross", she snaps, "I'm a woman!"

A characteristically piercing line from Robert David MacDonald's translation.

Irving Wardle

pleasure throughout the evening. John Chapman's Paines Plough production, scrupulously well cast, relishes the task of sustaining this stiflingly vicious atmosphere.

Without physically resembling the historic Clarence, Simon Shepherd radiates smiling confidence of licence above the law. As an artist with a fetish for black prizefighters, Iain Mitchell teeters on the fringes of gentlemanly acceptance.

The snag is that, while expanding infinitely in ironic detail, the play has nowhere to go. The cleverness almost becomes an irritant. We know the futility of black Billy's threat to call in the police. Nor does Mr Drury's real purpose ever clearly suggest itself. But, just superficially, it is an erudite and impressively staged fantasy grounded on all-too-credible psychology.

Nothing is sadder than the experienced Madeleine (Mary Ellen Ray) telling a virgin how degradation ceases to hurt with practice. Later she proves it with an exquisitely dry account of her early life, including a poisoned-cocoon murder similar to that of Madeleine Smith.

Anthony Masters

Neck and neck

La Bayadère  
Covent Garden

How justified the praise was that I heaped on the Royal Ballet's corps in *La Bayadère* earlier this year was confirmed when I saw the Ballet of the Paris Opéra's version recently. The French cast do very well, but the stretch, pull and poise of the British cast is better still. However, on the principle that trying harder never does any harm, let me mention that 20 years ago both the Royal and Kirov companies used to be even better.

There was a newcomer among the three soloists at Covent Garden on Thursday: Elizabeth Tullock in the solo with cabrioles. At her best, her feet are very neat, her arms well stretched, her timing good, but this first attempt was not evenly sustained all through.

For those solo parts, the two companies are about neck and neck, both with some outstanding young dancers and others who are acceptable but less than ideal. In the leading roles, Paris definitely has the edge at

Shorty Rogers/Bud Shank

Ronnie Scott's

Shorty Rogers and Bud Shank have to deal, first of all, with their shared past. Both were graduates, cum laude, of California's cool school of the early 1950s and, since neither the audience approaching them in the 1980s probably still expects to see crew-cuts, chinos and slacks and penny loafers.

Rogers, who plays the flugelhorn, is a skilled arranger and is equally remembered for his small group, the Giants, and for his exciting big band. He stays as close to the image as the passage of 30 years has allowed. A lightweight business suit of the Eisenhower era complements his neatly trimmed beard and the tone of his horn.

Baker/Parsons  
Wigmore Hall

The piano stool was for a moment empty, and Dame Janet seemed to have something to say. She waited for a silence almost more intense than any sound in the evening. Then, after a full programme, and after two encores, a still small voice began to sing "Thru' bushes and thro' briars".

The last thing we needed to hear after this was that her heart was like a singing bird. For in that one unaccompanied encore lay the disillation of a quality we had been waiting for all evening: a directness, a naked honesty in response and in the

Arriving in New York to the sound of breaking glass and an amplified archiepiscopal address audible from St Patrick's Cathedral to Central Park, I resolved for once to stick to the Times Square beat. Instead of taking refuge in the quiet little theatres beyond Eighth Avenue, there was no pressing reason to visit their allegedly mediocre revivals of Odeon and Sholom Aleichem: better see what was going on inside the Broadway novelty shop even if that meant seeing nothing but musicals (the main dramatic spaces having been commandeered by Tom Stoppard, Michael Frayn, Caryl Churchill and C. P. Taylor).

Everyone you speak to, from theatre-funding executives to *Variety*-reading lift operators, agrees that this has been a bad season. The story is told of a *New York Times* editor who welcomed a new reviewer to the staff by leading him up to the summit of the building to see the theatre district spread out below. "All this shall be yours", he announced, extending a

biblical arm. And the reviewer looked down, and saw that most of the promised land had closed on Saturday.

Most of it has now returned to business, but with full understanding that, should the business fail, the real-estate wreckers may move in to run the show. For good or ill, New York does not breed sacred cows; and you can sympathize with the hysteria of this year's advertising, and the refusal to handle anything but the safest properties.

If the outward signs suggest a condemned playground, the same image crops up inside the theatres as well. In London we have *Starlight Express*, a brand-new funhouse, pulsating with confidence and energy. Broadway also has its roller-skating musical, *Ebb and Kander's The Rink*, which presents its title location as a graveyard of the amusement park, the rink has fallen on hard times and is now patronized only by hoodlums

who patrol the broadwalk with their huge radios, beating up all who cross their path. *The Rink* got a roasting from the *New York* reviewers (including our own Holly Hill), but so far as its location goes - embodied in Peter Larkin's Roundhouse-like set with monumental and mildewed precision - amounts to a genuine sign of the times.

In a much grosser form, the same sign appears in Harvey Fierstein's *Spookhouse* (Playhouse 91), a story of blighted parenthood featuring a mother who refuses to let her son into the house (as it happens, he has raped and killed an eight-year-old girl). One can only say that he is better off out of it. Well before the show begins we have made the acquaintance of his brother Maxie, a chair-bound ghoul who responds to questions by letting off smoke signals; and, with the arrival of his fortune-telling parent, the house proves to have been slotted into a fairground folly.

As in *The Rink*, business is none too brisk, and the proprietress has time for prolonged sessions with the young social worker whose pleas on behalf of the murderous Wayne meet with her stonewalling refusal which can be summarized in one line: "You've got Mary Poppins up your yinyang."

*Spookhouse* is a specimen of Off-Broadway Gothic from the same school as *Little Shop of Horrors*, with the difference that its author is writing in deadly earnest. As he evokes it, the spectre of the decayed amusement park applies not only to Coney Island and 42nd Street but also to derelictions in the tunnel of love, and the miseries of confinement to the wrong sexual track.

There is no mistaking the flavour of a Fierstein line, which generally consists of transforming a harmless straight platitude into a barbed weapon of sexual warfare. Plenty of these crop up in the course of his Palace Theatre conquest, *La Cage aux folles*, but otherwise that famed event

comes as a big surprise. By repute, Mr Fierstein and Jerry Herman have put the French original under glass and trained it up into an ultimate exotic bloom, with chorus boys transfigured into gish-like perfection for the benefit of audiences of voyeuristic straight: The chorus of Cagelles do indeed leave the Rockettes out in the cold; but, side by side with them, we get the story of Georges and Albin - an old couple undergoing the familiar coils of married love in the context of running a homosexual night club.

Traditionally, this is an obsessive and inflammatory topic in New York, whence a steady stream of dreadful plays on the gay life has been issuing for many a long year. With luck, Mr Fierstein will put an end to them; at least, he is the first American playwright known to me who writes from an acknowledged homosexual viewpoint without pretending that homosexuals are the same as everybody else.

Briefly noted last month by Holly Hill, William Saroyan's *The Human Comedy* has moved uptown to the Royale, leaving the Public Theatre to keep as the Sloane Square connection with Caryl Churchill's *Fen and Janusz Głowacki's Cinders*.

A celebration of daily life in "a little town in America not famous for anything", the Saroyan adaptation marks the end of a chapter for the Joseph Papp organization. Late in the Sixties Papp launched *Celt MacDermot's Hair*, the first tribal musical; with *The Human Comedy* we are back to the world of docile soldiers, peaceable citizens and seasonal renewal. MacDermot and his co-adaptor, William Dumaresq, have devised an expressive and flexible group style, Appalachian folksong mingling with wartime jazz and some thrilling voices. It remains to be seen whether this escapist community will generate as much loyalty as the tribe; and whether it will succeed in holding the big lead ball at bay.

Televison  
Deference of the realm

"Counter Revolution" was the title of this week's interesting edition of *All Our Working Lives* (BBC2), for a circular process closely linked to changes in the class system, the label seemed particularly apt.

Once upon a time, assistants in city shops worked from dawn till dusk: now Ugandan Asians do so, selling in their turn that eternally prized commodity, time. For Oswald Mosley, small shopkeepers meant votes: not so for his spiritual successors. Bourne and Hollingworth have gone. Mothercare and Habitat have inherited the earth, empires rise and fall.

Once upon a time, shop assistants weighed and measured everything that passed through their hands. "I wasn't allowed to serve anybody for a year - I had to observe how it was done", said a proudly nostalgic lady from Hull.

Deference was a commodity. A toiler in a clothes shop recalled the punctiliousness with which the elite of Wigan were treated: if they wanted something by three in the afternoon, no matter how complicated, they got it - and on three months' credit with no interest.

Snobbery: a former Marks and Spencer manager told of running around behind Queen Mary pinning "as purchased by HM the Queen on everything she had chosen. Showmanship: pop compositions on the roof of Selfridges in the expansionist

1920s. Systematic subjugation: shop-floor unions were weak as water 50 years ago, and they are weak as water now. Yet the retail trade, then as now, was a howling success. The moral is a cruel one.

Marlowe - *Private Eye* (ITV) has cost £600,000 for each of its five stylish hours. It has already been sold in Iceland and Finland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and cassettes are now on sale in Papua, New Guinea. Money well spent, if that is what its makers really have to splash around: the first episode was tremendously good.

I cannot remember a tauter script, nor a more perfectly judged piece of direction, nor a closer shot at realizing Chandler's world since Bogart quitted the scene. Powers Boothe follows that act with a similar kind of disillusioned decency; everyone else looks made of their part. Down these mean streets this viewer gladly goes.

Michael Church  
WEEKEND CHOICE

The Testament of John (tonight, BBC 2, 9.00pm) - Don Taylor's play about how the souring of one man's political idealism also curdles the lives of the rest of his family - is written in verse, but the device is not rammed down our throats. Rather, it sets up subtle resonance in the dialogue and gives a very talented quartet of

Radio

A slow haul to the top

If I remember correctly, a Big Dipper ride opens with a slightly laborious pull up a steep slope; only after that do you get the full flavour of the experience. Radio 4's *Rollercoaster* on Thursday morning is not dissimilar. For the first half hour or so, two or three guests natter with Richard Baker. This week's topic, forgery, had its contents, but on three previous occasions, I have found myself wishing the natters would shut up and the programme get on with the main business.

It has managed to win me over, I suspect, by turning in at least one item which proved less awful than expected. Laurie Taylor on "modern manners", I thought: that's going to freeze the smile on my face. I did not count on Vic Lewis-Smith thawing it out. But they make an engaging pair as they proffer advice on eating spaghetti or on the correct way to behave in a disco, with the slightly tentative earnestness of two recent escapades from a home for the bewildered.

The rest of the morning's standard items fall on either side of its two fixed points: *Morning Story*, and a highly non-historical, resolutely topical *Act of Worship* - although the latter (and much else) vanished in the shortened Maundy

Thursday edition. Of these standard items, *On the Fringes* has produced some appealing, off-beat 10-minute features, while *Network UK* picks up news from around the country which, for the most part, would not make the major news programmes. Both these items seem to be working well.

*Thursday Exchange* usually offers a small debate on a topical issue, followed by a small phone-in. *Can You Help?* This brings to the microphone a person with a problem (divorced father seeking access to child; alcoholic parent with drug-addict son) which she or he discusses briefly with Sonia Hinton, the resident psychiatrist. Listeners are then invited to ring in with helpful suggestions.

I have found both these occasions a bit hard to take. Generally, *Thursday Exchange* represents the phone-in at most superficial. As for *Can You Help?*, this week saw an improvement, but on the whole the contrast between the severity of the volunteer's problem and the quality of the advice offered is pretty stark.

This leaves us with *Able Seagull Herring*, a tiny cartoon with political satire ambitions, and *In the Lion's Den*, which specializes in confronting a public person of strong views

with a panel of his or her critics. This is a promising idea if it ever managed to generate some reasonably cool debate, but so far we have had two slanging matches: Lady Olga Maitland upholding her views on civil defence (a thoroughly unbridled lioness in a den of ostriches), and Victoria Gillick attacking those who disagree with her views on contraception for the under-aged, and doing so in a manner unlikely to win her many converts. Patsie Coldwell presides and needs every decibel of that voice.

Despite what I have written, *Rollercoaster*, by some curious alchemy, adds up to something better than the sum of its parts. For this it owes much to Richard Baker's ability to keep the show moving and friendly. Baker apart, however, these Thursday mornings produce a great deal of interesting material. There may be too much of it, but it is of poor treatment rather than dead subject matter that I am complaining. If *Rollercoaster* can improve in that respect, and if the "seamless sequence" is what we must have to bring back listeners to Radio 4, then I think I can take it - and even like it. One morning a week anyway.

David Wade

Stretch out this Sunday.

Tomorrow is a big event for The Sunday Times. We're launching a new style Magazine that has a much larger page area than before and a glossy cover on heavier paper to make it easier to read and a pleasure to keep.

The increased page size provides room for a new leisure section covering many aspects of our daily lives: motoring; travel; gardening; home

computers; sports; food; wine; penetrating consumer tests; the latest in fashion and beauty; lively profiles.

The new Sunday Times Magazine has the space to bring you bigger features. Tomorrow, for example, the Magazine contains the world exclusive on the Eskimo baby, perfectly preserved in ice 500 years

THE SUNDAY TIMES

No other quality newspaper can stretch you so far

ago; the launch of the eight week ABC Diet and Bodyplan and the first of three pullout booklets called 'Living with the Computer.' And in the newspaper all the usual features plus a special review section on sex and marriage in the Eighties. Pick up your copy of The Sunday Times tomorrow - a unique combination of newspaper and new-style magazine with much more breadth and depth.



## SPORTING DIARY

### Hooliganism in history

The Chelsea-supporting morons - almost a tautology - who staged one of their usual riots at Portsmouth last Tuesday are part of a tradition. This fact comes to light thanks to three researchers at Leicester University who are involved in a three-year study of football hooliganism, and who have just released some of their findings.

They tell us that football violence was a problem in the 1890s. A pitch invasion after Loughborough had scored at Blackburn against Sheffield Wednesday was broken up "by the solid endeavours of the police and military". The Leicester Mercury reported, in the same year, a referee had to flee the ground by cab, pursued by a stone-throwing mob. In 1885, the entire Preston team was attacked and "several aerated-water bottles were hurled into the crowd and smashed, regardless of the consequences". Rather surprisingly, supporters used whisky to start a fire at a Rangers v Celtic cup final in 1909.

In heartening contrast, the letters are still arriving at Plymouth, from such people as motorway service station managers, praising the Plymouth Argyle supporters, after 20,000 of them went to Villa Park for their FA Cup semi-final against Watford the other week. There was not one arrest at the ground. I even saw rival supporters shaking hands. Wouldn't it be nice to have Plymouth instead of Chelsea promoted to the first division.

### Alive and kicking

The best footballers never give up. Tommy Robson nearly got to Wembley in 1966 when he was with Chelsea, but they lost in the FA semi-final. But today Tommy makes it, at last, aged 39 and playing for the United Counties League side, Stamford. He faces the might of the Essex Senior League side, Stansfeld, in the FA Vase final at Wembley this afternoon.

### Fever pitch

I am now utterly convinced that the Arsenal caretaker-manager, Don Howe, will get the job on a permanent basis, after a remark last week which encapsulates the spirit that will be forever Arsenal. Arsenal beat their deadly rivals Spurs, 3-2, and Howe summed up: "I told the players it was a good win - but that they made it too exciting." Attaboy, Don.

● The tender plant of Welsh cricket has never been famous for the luxuriance of its blooms, but it is unkind of Glamorgan's new sponsors to emphasize this fact. On the redesigned sweater, the Glamorgan daffodil emblem has been reduced to half its size.

### Distaff end

There are plenty of cricket buff who find women's cricket enough to drive them to drink - among them, it seems, Leicester magistrates. Leicestershire recently sought permission to run three all-day bars at their Grace Road ground. The application was refused - except for a local club final, the match against the West Indies, and the women's Test against New Zealand.

### Pace setters

The annual London Marathon is again set to bore us into inertia through its sheer enthusiasm, but there might be solace in wondering how many of our rulers will collapse en route. Four MPs have entered, says Jonathan Aitken, a perky 41, the oldest of the bunch. The fastest is likely to be Matthew Parris, hoping to break 2hr 35min, which is frightfully quick. Colin Moynihan, an Olympic medal-winning cox, and Gary Waller, make up the bunch. All four fleet-footed politicians are Tories. It must prove something.

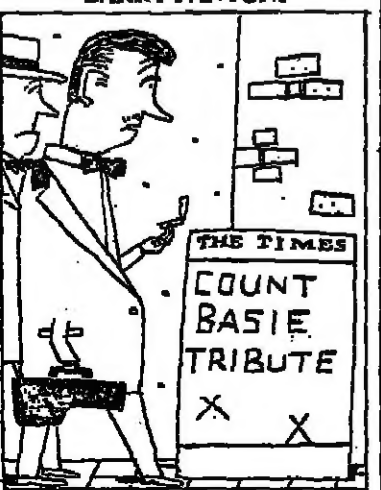
● Let us salute a new world record for Britain, and scored by a lady who has been British for even longer than Zola Budd. V. Cherri-man swam the 400 metres in 8 min 9.29 sec to win the title and record in the 75 to 79-year-old category at the International Masters championship in New Zealand.

### Crash course

American football is catching on rapidly in Britain - as a summer game. There are already two British leagues of American football, and needless to say, they are not speaking to each other. There are 43 teams altogether, including the Heathrow Jets and the Dublin Brewers; some even have equipment. These followers of the television-led boom are in danger of playing the game for real, and discovering that it hurts rather a lot.

Simon Barnes

BARRY FANTONI



"So it's no more one more time"

## Giving the diplomatic rules some teeth

Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Foreign Office are under a clear duty to come up with imaginative new proposals to reform the Vienna Convention and the absolute diplomatic immunity enshrined in it. Libya has demonstrated that just as absolute power corrupts absolutely, so total diplomatic immunity can undermine totally the duty of foreign diplomats "to respect the laws and regulations of a host country".

Attention must be focused on the two worst articles of the Vienna Convention - Articles 22 and 27. Under the first of these, foreign embassies are regarded as "invulnerable". Article 27 simply states that "the diplomatic bag shall not be opened or detained".

While total diplomatic immunity under these two articles needs radical rethinking, the absolute diplomatic immunity for embassy staff must be retained, so that British and other diplomats are not subjected to the indignities and atrocities of laws which, in repressive countries such as the Soviet Union or the military dictatorships of South America, are primarily designed to keep a regime or dictator in power.

The absolute immunity afforded under these two articles must now be brought under a neutral, but higher, jurisdiction such as the International Court at The Hague. But until they are amended to make embassies and diplomatic bags

subject to a right of search under an order of the International Court, it will be all too easy for Colonel Gaddafi and other dictators to claim that their embassies are "invulnerable" and if we search their embassy or diplomatic bag they will search ours - a euphemism for the kind of attack which the British Embassy in Peking suffered during the Cultural Revolution.

Where, therefore, a host country has firm evidence that a country such as Libya is breaching international laws, it must be made possible for it to apply to the court at The Hague for a warrant to search either the embassy or a particular diplomatic bag. If satisfied that a prima facie case had been made out, the court would order the offending country, such as Libya, to grant access to its embassy or diplomatic bag. United Nations legal observers attached to the court would supervise the search. At the same time, the court could order that a similar number of UN legal observers

should be seconded to the British Embassy in Tripoli to help guarantee a degree of fair play while the embassy or diplomatic bag was being searched over here.

Such measures are of course designed to be preventive rather than punitive, but to ensure their effectiveness careful consideration must be given to arming the court at The Hague with new powers which would make countries - including the United States - that much more careful before refusing to submit to the jurisdiction of the court and then failing to comply with the court's decision in contravention of Article 94 of the UN Charter.

To that end consideration should be given to empowering the court to make a direct order suspending a country from the UN while it remained in breach of the court's ruling. At present, Article 94(2) of the UN Charter merely allows an aggrieved party to refer a decision of the court to the Security Council for "measures to be taken to give effect

to the judgment". But this is clearly unsatisfactory in that it subordinates the court to the political wheeling and dealing of the Security Council - rather like making a decision of the House of Lords subject to ratification by the Cabinet before it can be implemented.

Not only should the International Court be armed with greater powers to order suspension from the UN until a country had purged its contempt, but it should also have the power to order that a country with a bad diplomatic record must lodge a monetary bond with the court as security against good diplomatic behaviour under the Vienna Convention. This would be a precondition for allowing certain countries to set up, or continue to run, embassies in host countries. If a country then proceeded to violate the convention an action could be brought against it for the forfeiture of the whole or a part of the bond.

Until the Foreign Office and the International Law Commission at the United Nations begin to think along new lines such as these, the Vienna Convention will remain little more than a voluntary code. It is an unhappy base for a set of legal rights and remedies which depend for their efficacy on the ability of a wronged party to seek and obtain redress from a higher authority. To that extent, while the Convention may be a practical reality it will remain little more than a legal fiction.

Alastair Brett

Simon Blow on the Lyttelton/Hart-Davis correspondence

## Dying art of the long-range chat

What has become of the writing of letters? Who today sets down his thoughts on paper to his friends, rather than pick up a telephone? Distance, as well as such delicate matters as death or the importunity of creditors, may still encourage letter-writing, but otherwise do we unjustly neglect its advantages? In not so far away times, people wrote to one another almost daily, for it was the recognized manner of communication at a distance. And also it was found that letters could wield so many prized weapons of the English language, not least understatement and irony.

Henry James, a prolific letter-writer, would resort to letters to ironies that could never have served him so well in direct conversation. For in letters he discovered he could "hide quite wonderfully" - as he might have put it - from any clear commitment. Writing to a woman acquaintance who had dedicated a rather bad novel to him, he could reply: "I regard Miss Brown as a most interesting and (if the word didn't sound so patronizing I should say promising) experiment. It has in this age of thinnest levity and clapping the signal merit of being serious. Write another novel. You owe it to yourself, and to me..."

But if an advantage of the letter is the disguise of true feelings, equally it can act as the best expression of strongest feelings. Sometimes such letters have become works of art. John Keats's tender, sad love letters to Fanny Brawne or, on a more intentionally dramatic level, Oscar Wilde's *De Profundis*. Wilde's long letter of accusation and remorse to Lord Alfred Douglas has a poignancy which is only heightened by the grime of the place to which his association with Douglas has led him. Whether Wilde so planned it or not, *De Profundis* rises above its immediate purpose to become a classic statement about the beloved's act of betrayal. Its effect could not have been achieved in another form.

Samuel Richardson's three novels, *Pamela*, *Clarissa*, and *Sir Charles Grandison* were all written as letters - a fictional device still practised. To write a novel in the form of letters has appeal because it makes the content appear more personal and therefore more authentic. But as a result, the role of letter-writing has grown hard to define. It is purely an amateur pursuit carried on by great-aunts from seaside villas, or does it belong with serious literature? The answer is that letters belong in both places, but rightly used they become literature.

The civilizing effects of the letter is brought home to us by Sir Rupert Hart-Davis's six-volume correspondence with George Lyttelton, a former housemaster at Eton. The sixth volume was published this week and concludes the exchange. For what started off as a weekly venture to activate the mind of a retired schoolmaster and distract a busy London publisher from the chores of the office, has been received as a reminder that we do need the calm deliberation of the epistle as a mode of expression.

With talk of literary people, their likes and dislikes of novels, a shared love of cricket, and incidents which have amused them, the tone is always immensely well-mannered. Here is no slipping into self-indulgence, no advertisement of weak-



Hart-Davis (left) and Lyttelton: as though they were sitting by a club fireside



Wilde: dramatic

James: irony

Waugh: quirky

Lawrence: direct

nesses. It is all good fireside chat, as if from a London club, but instead put down on paper at their respective country retreats.

Thus Lyttelton writes from Suffolk: "Have you passed The Strand Theatre recently, outside which the play is blundered as 'Delightful, bawdy, wonderful, amoral, indecent?' A direct result, as it seems to fuddy-duddy like me, of the *Chatterley* verdict." And Hart-Davis, from Oxfordshire, tells of his current reading: "I'm enjoying Wells and Gissing, especially the former. I think I have read every book he wrote, and enjoyed them all. But how furious he always was when he was asked for more *Polly* and less *Chissled*. But he could be ungrateful, eg the way he treated old Henry James."

Both Lyttelton and Hart-Davis are fluent and engaging, and the letters make their point, but I do wonder, if letter-writing is to have a case today, whether it should be self-effacing. In search of contrast I turned to D. H. Lawrence. He writes to Bertrand Russell: "I didn't like your letter. What's the good of living as you do, anyway. I don't believe your lectures are good. They are nearly over, aren't they? ... Do stop working & writing altogether and become a creature instead of a mechanical instrument. Do for heavens sake be a baby, and not a savant any more."

If letters are to survive, they must reflect the world we live in. Lyttelton and Hart-Davis would reel from Lawrence's directness, but English reserve and manners can be restrictive. They can carry an aloofness which evades, and they

have dogged English letters for too long. This does not mean that those treasured weapons of the language are valueless, but just that a little of letting oneself open out can do no harm. The letter does still offer infinite opportunity for sharp insights and perceptions that can all too easily evaporate when spoken, and good letters, like good diaries, can be a portrait of their time. But as styles of writing alter as life alters, so must the letter. A problem facing the letter is that it has got lost in a belated backwater that no longer has any relevance.

But there are letter-writers near to hand who can remind us of the vitality of the medium: writers who have found that letters allow them a quirkiness and individuality which cannot surface in quite the same way in other media. Evelyn Waugh is an example. Take his writing to Nancy Mitford in complaint of John Bejerman: "Bejerman delivered a Christmas message on the wireless. First he said that as a little boy he had been a coward and a liar. Then he said he was sure all his listeners had been the same. Then he said that he had been convinced of the truth of the incarnation the other day by hearing a choirboy sing 'Once in Royal David's City' in King's College Chapel." Taking up the issue with Bejerman himself, Waugh asks: "How would you have felt if instead of a choir boy at Cambridge you had heard a muzzelin in Jerusalem?"

The scerbity of Waugh is the yardstick for those who might feel inclined to return to letter writing. He is funny, informative, angry, bitter and bellicose. We feel life in his letters. There is no place any

more for gentle niceties, or what Henry James called "the mere twaddle of graciousness." And now, even more than in Waugh's day, the news tells us that the world is really not very agreeable. So to write letters as if it were, would be both false and wearisome.

And yet how good it might be if we could return to that ordered existence that made for pleasurable letter-writing. First, there would have to be more time, less harassment from a troubled world, and not too much preoccupation with the need to earn a living. It would be better to live in the country and just travel up to town occasionally to meet a friend in a club in St. James's. And then back in time for a stroll in the meadows before dinner. One might then compose one's mind again to write the civilized epistle, and so continue a tradition.

But to attempt a return now would be to inhabit a false Eden. Enough distress is publicized without having to write to one another, and in the interim we prefer to keep silent. Instead we send each other postcards or brief notes of thanks for a dinner or a weekend's hospitality. Yet should we wish to recall this dying art there are annually increasing volumes of published correspondence. Everything from Lord Chesterfield to Lyttelton and Hart-Davis. Could these published volumes be, in fact, the obituary notice of the letter?

*The Lyttelton-Hart-Davis letters vol. 6, edited by Rupert Hart-Davis, was published this week by John Murray (£13.50).*

not certain, but it is widely assumed that the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere due to the combustion of fossil fuels is playing an important part. Whatever the explanation, the effect on the weather will not be a simple warming across the board, but could be extremely complex.

One theory is that a warmer climate could be more variable. This would manifest itself in more frequent blocking conditions with their attendant heat waves or cold spells. Indeed the hot summers in Europe in 1975, '76 and '83, plus the frequent cold winters in the United States since 1977, and the extraordinary El Niño in the tropical Pacific in 1982/3 could be regarded as evidence of such a trend.

All in all, in spite of advances in meteorology and improved weather forecasting up to a week ahead, we are a long way from explaining longer term fluctuations. Moreover, if the current global warming continues, we will enter territory uncharted in historic records and be flying blind.

William Burroughs

Woodrow Wyatt

## Why can't Tiny be a Beaver?

Lord Beaverbrook was asked by the Royal Commission on the Press in 1948 what his main purpose was in running his papers. He replied: "I run the papers purely for propaganda and with no other purpose." In today's conditions this honourable declaration of aims would have prevented him from buying the *Daily Express*. That would have been bad for the press and for journalism.

It is a recent and curious doctrine that owners should not be allowed to determine the contents of their newspapers. The prevailing ethos is that they may pay the bills, collect the advertising and spend money on promoting the publication, and that is all.

Thus will the freedom of the press be preserved, it is thought. But whose freedom? Why should the editor's views be more sacred than those of the proprietor? Any editor who worked for Beaverbrook knew that either he ran his paper the Beaverbrook way, or he did not run it at all. He was not obliged to work for Beaverbrook and would have been foolish to do so if he found Beaverbrook's views so distasteful that he was not prepared to put them across.

Michael Foot had no trouble with his conscience when he edited the *Evening Standard*. Editing a newspaper is a job; it helps if you share the views of your employer but it is not essential. Successful Beaverbrook editors like Beverley Baxter and Arthur Christiansen were in tune with the proprietor, doubtless having their conflicts but sorting them out amicably.

Most great newspapers are the result of one individual with strong views on policy and presentation having ultimate control, whether it be Scott of the *Guardian*, H. E. Bartholomew of the *Mirror*, Northcliffe or Rothermere.

There is no threat to the freedom of the press in this. It is the freedom of the readers to choose that decides whether a newspaper will survive.

Would it matter to the freedom of the press if Mr Rowland or Mr Maxwell were able to tell the editor of *The Observer* what he should put in his newspaper? Not at all. If the proprietor peddled lines obnoxious to *The Observer's* traditional readers they would vanish and there would be no *Observer*. That is the sanction which prevents people with big money at stake from going too far.

If Mr Rowland or Mr Maxwell had matter inserted to help their other business interests, we would know at once: journalists resigning from the paper would broadcast the news; there would be informants still working on the paper who would gladly supply *Private Eye* and various other media with all the details; the reputation of *The Observer* for reliable reporting would be gone, to the detriment of the investment in it.

It would be sad to see *The Observer* become unviable through loss of readers, but it would not affect the freedom of the press. There are many other places to say everything that is said in the *Observer*.

The attempt to regulate the

relations between editor and proprietor through government agency must fail. It is a relationship which should be governed by common sense and not by a set of written rules. A proprietor dissatisfied with his editor will do his best to get round the rules. An editor dissatisfied with his proprietor will use the rules to protect his right of free expression over that of the proprietor. Not a happy marriage; and the child will suffer.

At the Mirror Group, editors know that it would be unacceptable for them to go outside the traditions of their publication. If one of them decided to support the Militant Tendency, or the National Front, or possibly even Mrs Thatcher, he would expect to be dismissed. He would not be able to plead any right of freedom as editor. That is as it should be.

Now we have the illogical situation in which some newspaper proprietors are bound by commitments to government or its agencies to respect the rights of editors to say anything they like, and to appoint other proprietors, have no such obligation. This is because the proprietors are not under the same unnatural restrictions were the only ones who could be found at the time to save the newspapers concerned from oblivion.

That, it seems, was to be honour enough. Those responsible for getting their papers into a mess persuaded the government that the papers had some peculiar sanctity established by the previous owners which must be preserved after they had gone. Power to rule from beyond the grave which would be laughed at in any other transaction.

Why should it be accepted as a truism that an editor has better judgement than a proprietor in how to appeal to the market in which his paper sells? Tying shackles on proprietors ossifies newspapers and diminishes their freedom to change and adapt, which can lead to their death.

There may be an argument for preventing the same proprietor acquiring too much of the press. That is a matter for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But a purchase once having been allowed, it is not the province of the commission, or of government, to lay down conditions on which the new proprietor should be allowed to conduct his business. All such regulations should be terminated: they cause more damage than good, as can be seen at *The Observer*, where a proprietor who dislikes his own product is understandably reluctant to finance it.

To perpetuate old newspapers as though they were protected historical monuments about which nothing is to be changed, not even the position of the furniture, is ridiculous. Proprietors should be allowed to employ editors they can get on with, and editors should remain free to choose proprietors whose general approach they share without exposing to the whims of the press. There are many other places to say everything that is said in the *Observer*.

The attempt to regulate the

Roy Strong

## They're off - to a stately stagger

I write this on April 23, St George's Day, and his ensign - red cross on a white ground - flutters from many a local parish flagpole, reflecting Anglican loyalty to a saint demoted by the Church of Rome. In the past, this was the day of the Garter procession when the sovereign, regardless of where he resided, passed in gorgeous cavalcade attended by his knights through the palace courtyard to the Chapel Royal. In Tudor times this was a great public event which it remained until Charles I, who was what 1066 and *All That* would categorize as a "Bad Thing", moved it to Windsor.

Now the event remains sadly and permanently divorced from the day and its historic context, living on as a spectacle to launch Ascot week. I have only seen the Garter procession twice. Once from the roof of the Round Tower as I rushed from one side to the other as the stately procession meandered its way down to St George's Chapel. A second time more grandly from the eaves of what Lord Charteris's house thronged with *le monde* and with strawberries for tea. Knights of the Garter tend to be advanced in years and my main memory consists of a blast of wind which seemed to blow most of them over to an almost impossible angle so that I thought they would all topple over like the pack of cards in *Alice in Wonderland*. As the procession returned uphill there were those who were gathered into limousines in case they fell by the wayside.

Like Lord Bute in the eighteenth century, it is an advantage to have good legs to be a Garter Knight. In full evening dress they wear their Garter with kneeboots and black silk stockings. I once glimpsed the new Lord Wilson cutting a fetching figure thus attired.

But how extraordinary it is that after 600 years this ceremony still exerts its potent spell as a manifestation of royalist chivalry flooding down the centuries. That we can still see pass before us a cavalcade that inspired the brush of Van Dyck and the pencil of Lely. Their visions inevitably romanticized the original, but how fascinating it is that in revamped terms the crown's use of chivalry remains unchanged in its objective of uniting divergent viewpoints into a single homage to a

reine. For under these velvet robes and beplumed hats stride the unlikely figures, not only of Lord Wilson, but Lord Drogheda, Lord Longford and the Duke of Grafton to name but four. As those who have held office as prime minister twice are usually accorded the honour, it might be expected to see Mrs Thatcher join this joyous band for which ladies wear the garter on their arm.

Besides Garter glories, April 23 calls to mind Shakespeare's birthday. There is still something wonderful about a second procession, that to Holy Trinity, Stratford-on-Avon. Twenty years ago it was the four hundredth anniversary of his birth and I walked in that procession clutching a bouquet of sweet herbs - rosemary and thyme and sage - a poet's nosegay. By the time I reached the church the chancel was piled high with flowers, cascades of bloom dappled with sunlight and the organ blaring forth in glory.

That was the year of the great Shakespeare Exhibition which began with such high hopes and ended in disaster. The portraits and documents fell under my aegis and even they were doomed to the last. As I sat down next to some African dignitary at the launching luncheon a note was passed to me. Unfolding it I read: "We've lost Shakespeare's will!" That nearly ruined that particular April 23.

It was the old Duke of Newcastle who told Charles II at the Restoration that "ceremony though it is nothing in itself yet it doth everything". In many ways this is very true and the British have a genius for it, largely because there has been no disruption to the tradition since the seventeenth century. But it is only so when ritual is a true expression of ideals and beliefs shared by both actors and onlookers. When the two part company it is reduced to an empty charade. It is such a parting of the ways that those who take part in such spectacles must forever guard against. "For what is a King," Newcastle went on to say, "more than a subject but for ceremony and order. When that fails him he's ruined!"

Sir Roy Strong is director of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## THE COMPANY THEY KEEP

It is hard for anyone who has not been down a coalmine to appreciate why the experience, particularly on a daily basis, so often makes miners feel like men apart from the rest of society. There is something totally pre-emptive about work down the mine. It results in many miners, if not their wives, being less susceptible to normal economic influences than other citizens engaged in more familiar and visible forms of work.

The successful management of coalfields thus calls for sensitivity and skill of a higher order than, say, that required for a supermarket. That is particularly so during periods of prolonged retrenchment such as the National Coal Board is undergoing. The NCB has shown such skills at every level of management; and Mr. Ian MacGregor, in spite of many attempts to portray him as a politician's hatchet man, is clearly endowed with impressive qualities of industrial leadership.

Mr. MacGregor is there to make the NCB a vigorous forward-looking industrial enterprise in the highly competitive world of energy production. The economics of coal in the energy equation may appear uncomplicated, but his task is bedevilled by the emotions which attach not to coal itself as just one among several sources of energy available to this country, but to the idea of coalminers, as talismen of a particular type of society and culture which has great symbolic appeal to the Left.

It should be in everybody's interest to contain this emotional dimension so as not to aggravate the task of reconstruction in the coal industry. That is difficult enough already, as with all monolithic industries when afflicted with a changing economic environment. Yet the emotional attraction to the idea of the coalminer, rather than to coal, leads some people to romanticise the work of the coalminer, at the risk of perpetrating serious economic, and even moral fallacies, as Mr. Enoch Powell rightly pointed out yesterday in his criticism of the Archbishop of York's well-intentioned, but ill-considered plea to keep old pits open.

It leads others to exploit the

coalminer for their own ends, which have less to do with the plight of coalminers at uneconomic pits, and more to do with broader political objectives in which the coalminer becomes so much cannon fodder in a fight for political power.

One would expect the Mine-workers' Union to fight for its members in order to mitigate the hard reality of closing down uneconomic pits and the strains of a shrinking workforce. It has done so not unsuccessfully, to judge by the unprecedentedly high redundancy terms on offer to miners - always hitherto on a voluntary basis - and the phasing of the run-down during both Labour and Conservative administrations.

That limited but important industrial and social task has now instead become an increasingly rancorous political issue, in which the Labour leadership, surely against its better judgment, has effectively joined forces with Mr. Scargill. Have Mr. Kinnoch and his colleagues not been listening to Mr. Scargill since last year's election? He has consistently stated his intention to use the mineworkers as shock troops in a much wider war than the question of pithead economies; hence his impatience with the idea of a pithead ballot. And at every station along the line the Communists have been with him. It cannot be wise for the Labour leadership to keep such company.

Only two days after the election Mr. Scargill was telling the *Morning Star* that the trade unions would now have to take extra-parliamentary action against policy decisions of the elected government. "Arthur is right," commented the revolutionary paper *Socialist Action*. A week later the *Morning Star* endorsed statements by Mr. Scargill and his Communist vice president, Mr. Mick McGahey, stating: "The miners... are in the firing line... We must all get ready to stand alongside them."

Mr. Scargill has made no secret of his view that the trade unions should use their muscle to acquire political power, regardless of electoral niceties. He warned the mineworkers that the fight against this Government's policies would have to take place

outside Parliament, and was warmly supported in this view by Mr. George Bolton, the Scottish NUM's vice-president and soon to be elected chairman of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

Before the Trades Union Congress last year the *Morning Star* interviewed Mr. Scargill and two leading trade unionists who are official members of the Communist Party, Mr. Ken Gill and Mr. Ben Rubner. Mr. Scargill there warned against the possibility of "class collaboration" which would be involved in any contact with the Government. His campaign has been fully orchestrated by Communist Party spokesmen in support, distributing 60,000 leaflets and giving repeated endorsements in the columns of the *Morning Star*. It was in that newspaper on March 28 that Mr. Scargill spelt out his view of the class war which he hopes to wage on the British people, in which, "every sinew in every factory, office, dole queue, docks, railway, plant and mill will need to be strained to the maximum. Waiting in the wings are four million unemployed whose numbers could swell the picket line at any time. What is urgently needed is the rapid and total mobilization of the trade union and labour movements to take positive advantage of a unique opportunity to defend our class and roll back the machinery of oppression, exploitation and deep-seated human misery."

By associating his Party directly with the miners' struggle; by laying more emphasis on allegations against the police than in criticising the violence of flying pickets; by ordering a Labour Party levy for mineworkers before any sign of a strike ballot, thus making it clear which way he hopes or expects the ballot to go; and by a reluctance to hear what the hard Left and the Communists are saying and then to stand out against them, Mr. Kinnoch and his colleagues have been skillfully manoeuvred into following the militants rather than leading the party away from militancy. They now share a platform with the Communists though that surely cannot have been what they intended. Is there a Leader in the House to get them off it?

## THE UNIONISTS' PENNYWORTH

Fear has helped to propel the Dublin forum towards a conclusion which was being given its finishing touches yesterday - fear that the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the vehicle of "constitutional nationalism" in Northern Ireland, may shortly be eclipsed at the polls by Sinn Féin offering hard-driving community politics, marxist millenarianism, and general support for the "armed struggle" to get the British presence out of Ireland.

The same fear has touched some Unionists in the North. Mr. Frank Millar, secretary of the Ulster Unionist party, was recently advising his members not needlessly to compound the SDLP's difficulties and to speak advisedly, however firmly, about matters arising from the forum report, since the SDLP's replacement by Sinn Féin as the majority party on the nationalist side would herald the start of Northern Ireland's ultimate nightmare. And now his party's position paper on administrative devolution, which it describes as the way forward for Northern Ireland, extends an olive-branch of sorts to the SDLP.

Both communities in Northern Ireland, the document says, must realize that their problems will have to be solved and their future prospect provided for within the Northern Ireland context. (It is of course the contention of the SDLP, and will be strenuously argued in the forum report, that the problems of the Province are incapable of solution within that context.) "This will require a mutual recognition of each other's hopes

and fears. Only rights can be guaranteed, not aspirations, but it is the responsibility of the majority to persuade the minority that the Province is also theirs." If that last sentiment had been held and acted upon by the Ulster Unionist party fifty, thirty, fifteen years ago, the spilling of much blood and many tears might have been averted.

The offer is for cooperation in an Ulster assembly transformed into a top-tier local government council run on normal committee lines. It is suggested, optimistically, that with the constitutional issue left on one side local administration could go forward without being bedevilled by it, and that a multiplicity of parties would lead to shifting alliances and the avoidance of a permanent minority. A bill of rights, some adaptation of the European convention, would flank these arrangements; and even an "Irish dimension" is countenanced, but only if redefined to mean the fostering and state funding of "distinctively Irish cultural activities".

The plan has the merit of postulating joint participation in government in a form and at a level below the point at which it becomes inherently impossible by reason of fractured allegiance. It also has the administrative merit of filling the Macrory gap. Sir Patrick Macrory reviewed local government in the Province in 1970 and recommended the transfer of the more important functions to the elected body at Stormont. The change had not sooner been made than the

elected body at Stormont was done away with, leaving these functions to civil servants and junior ministers sent over from Westminster, also leaving a dearth of employment for local politicians and no one on the spot for the citizen to chivy.

However the plan as presented is thin gruel for a nationalist party, especially one which has tasted briefly the fruit of the Sunningdale conference, which has long demanded an Irish dimension of a constitutional and not merely cultural kind, and which has Sinn Féin breathing down its neck. It is indeed as a Province firmly anchored to the United Kingdom that Northern Ireland must make its foreseeable future. But the price for reconciliation has risen as intransigence has prolonged itself.

The structures and gestures now advanced by the Unionist party do not amount to a workable alternative to the status quo. Qualified political autonomy on a provincial basis even in the sphere of local government can be resumed in Northern Ireland only with some solid recognition of the Irish (nationalist) identity of two fifths of the people, and only if the devices adopted for expressing that identity do not and do not appear to call in question the Province's constitutional anchorage in the United Kingdom for so long as that is the will of the majority. Whether such devices exist or can be invented is something on which the report of the Dublin forum may have light to shed.

## The Shah's Iran

From Mr David Misen

Sir, It was refreshing, and moving, to read Sir Anthony Parsons' open and honest account of his role in the last days of the Shah's Iran (features, April 16, 17 and 18).

As one of those hidden advisers responsible for starting and developing the Shah's external propaganda campaign in the years just after his coronation, I was responsible for projecting an image of impregnable internal stability, which could now be said to have boomeranged.

One angle which we used to play for it was that the so-called tradition of a direct relationship between Emperor and people, in contrast to the many layers of European feudalism. Another was that the only Iranian rulers ever to lose their thrones were those who paid insufficient attention to defence - which, where the Shah was concerned, was plainly not the case.

Like Sir Anthony, we disregarded (except that we did so deliberately) the lessons to be learned from more recent Iranian history.

Nevertheless, for all our and our client's hyperbole, there is an astonishingly powerful grassroots tradition of, and preference for, kingship in Iran, which no mere mullah can ever hope to satisfy. I for one would not be surprised if another Shah were to appear in Iran within the next decade.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MISEN,  
28 Edna Street, SW11,  
April 19.

## Idea for escape

From Mr James Patrick

Sir, Hardly a day passes without the report of a fire tragedy somewhere in the country. Frequently it involves members of a family trapped in an upstairs bedroom with their only escape via a window placed anything

from 14 to 40 feet from the ground. To jump would often cause serious injury from fractures of the legs or spine.

It surprises me that so few people keep a rope ready beneath the bed. Would it not be desirable to initiate a campaign for every household at risk to invest in such a cheap insurance?

Perhaps a rope-making firm could put on the market a suitable rope and the fire service issue instructions as to the right anchorage point, etc. Possibly a spliced loop at the free end would facilitate speedy lowering of a child to the ground.

Seat belts in cars are now compulsory; should not safety fire-escape ropes have at least a Home Office recommendation?

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES PATRICK,  
Ardferry,  
by Lochgilphead,  
Argyll,  
April 20.

## Civil liberties and the extreme right

From Mr Martin Ennals

Sir, The NCCL members who have decided that advice should not be given to the National Front or other racist groups have fallen for the oldest con-trick in politics. The racists of the right do not need advice from Larry Gostin and his colleagues except as a gimmick.

The Young Conservatives gave convincing proof of the infiltration by the extreme right into the mainstream of Conservative party politics. Lord Scarman and, more recently, the Policy Studies Institute have both remarked upon the incidence of racism and racist attitudes within the police.

With friends in such places why would racists need help from their enemies within the NCCL? The result of their tactic is a division within the NCCL membership and a distraction of attention from the very real civil liberty issues which exist throughout our society, including racism in high places.

In the early 60s the NCCL campaigned in concert with many national, local, religious, community, political and black groups for new and effective legislation against racial discrimination and racial incitement. What has happened since then is that while some laws exist they are not effectively enforced. In the inner city areas in particular, racial attacks continue and racial harassment is constant yet the police and the Director of Public Prosecutions have singularly failed to bring those responsible to account.

What is needed now is a concerted approach by all those who value civil liberties. The NCCL has neither the political will nor the resources to institute a screening procedure for either its membership or its clients. The very debate detracts from the immediacy of the real issues.

As doyen of the tribe of ex-external secretaries of the NCCL, may I appeal to all protagonists to get back to work?

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN ENNALS  
157 Southwood Lane, N6,  
April 26

## Alien rights

From Mr John Handoll

Sir, In his letter (April 25) Mr J. A. Lane has suggested, with remarkable candour, that "aliens" should not be permitted to demonstrate in British streets. This, although British nationals will continue to be entitled to do so, presumably without behaving "with the decorum normally expected of guests."

Granted that the prospect of violence along recent lines causes great concern; granted, too, that there may have to be limits placed on the conduct of even peaceful demonstrations in particular cases; these factors, together with the question of the cost of a police presence, apply to all demonstrators, irrespective of nationality.

Leaving aside the question of the discriminatory double standards, in my view plain in Mr Lane's letter, the logic of his approach seems to be that if an "alien" cannot safely demonstrate in his own country (because of a repressive system) then he should not be able to do so elsewhere, unless his host state is stupid enough to let him. This would be a further tragedy for the oppressed.

If ever this country were to operate a repressive policy, I hope to goodness even Mr Lane would be able to demonstrate somewhere.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HANDOLL,  
45 rue de Bérier,  
Brussels,  
Belgium,  
April 25.

From Mr Robert Milne-Tyte

Sir, Having, thanks to Libyans, been denied access for nearly two weeks to the St James's Square premises of the London Library and the Royal

## Hess and the Jews

From the President of the Anglo-Jewish Association

Sir, Your description of Rudolf Hess reminds us of the lonely, pathetic Jews in our homes worldwide, without families, whom many of us still care for and who never recovered from the horrors Hess and his Germany enthusiastically supported. Eichmann was also pathetic when he was hanged but still proud of what he had achieved for the Führer.

Retribution or forgiveness are terribly difficult decisions to cope with if we think in terms of the victims. Genuine contrition for

## Words and worship

From the Very Reverend Robert T. Holby

Sir, I write as one who agrees with the Archbishop of Canterbury that (particularly for certain groups he identifies, though also for others) "the poetry and music of the ASB [Anglican Service Book] can express for them the inexpressible in their own lives and to pack itself into capsules of ideas."

I would also accept some of the positive arguments for the retention of the Prayer Book in the article by Roger Scruton (April 10) to which in his letter (April 18) Mr Simon Preston, the Organist of Westminster Abbey refers.

Mr Preston, however, accepts without question both the alleged facts and also the judgements stated in Mr Scruton's article - e.g. that the Church of England is "free to ignore completely the wishes of its congregation" (sic).

In connection with the Alternative Service Book Mr Scruton's strictures on the clergy, his insupportable presuppositions (as if the Anglican Communion did not exist) are, with

## Dangers in plan to sell nurses' homes

From Mrs Patricia Spencer

Sir I am most disturbed to read (report, April 24) of the proposed selling of nurses' accommodation throughout the NHS. The nursing profession is quite unique because young girls at the age of 18 entering the profession for training are immediately put on the wards with the shift duties alongside their theoretical studies.

A nurse might come off a late night duty in a large city where it is quite undesirable and unsafe for her to make her journey home alone. The one safeguard for these young people was the hospital accommodation, where they could be safely transported to their duty.

I am appalled that such a decision might be taken - these dedicated girls who are caring for our sick deserve every consideration for their security in the performance of their duties. The first year of a university course is always spent in-hall for obvious reasons. These drastic changes can only escalate violence in our deserted city streets at night. Have we not a duty to our young?

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICIA SPENCER,  
St Martin's Farm,  
Zeals,  
Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the Director of the Catholic Housing Aid Society

Sir, Your front page report, "Sale of nurses' homes urged", based on the unpublished report to health ministers, is a most disturbing and continuing unsound foundation of the present Government's housing policies.

Trained nurses are paid on a scale from £4,787 to £6,094 per year. Yet the *Building Societies Association Bulletin* points out that the average annual income of first-time buyers is £9,019 and the average dwelling price paid by first-time buyers is £19,829.

Trained nurses with years of service will still only be able to obtain mortgages of some £15,000 (or less) and a half times annual salary. House purchase is impossible for the vast majority of nurses, unless salaries are increased significantly.

It should be noted that the £5-a-week subsidy to NHS staff for housing is far less than owner-occu-

piers with mortgages receive in tax relief. For example, a recent parliamentary question revealed that in the Greater London area the average weekly value per mortgage of mortgage tax relief has increased from £5.96 in 1979-80 to £10.39 in 1984-85.

Savings should be sought not by the sale of nurses' homes but by reductions in the already low standard of living of nurses but by reductions and modifications in the excessive tax relief given to owner occupiers, especially those paying above the standard rate of tax.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT KAHN, Director,  
Catholic Housing Aid Society,  
189a Old Brompton Road, SW5.

From Mr Alistair Duff

Sir, Let us stand resolutely by the Royal College of Nursing in its opposition to the proposal to sell off the nurses' homes. The feelings of dismay and alarm with which nurses have greeted the proposal are fully justified.

Having personal experience of looking for student accommodation in London and Glasgow, I can bear witness to how difficult it is. There is already a severe shortage of flats and beds in these cities, and in Nottingham too; how then will the nurses be able to cope?

Anyway, nurses' homes are a good thing. As the Royal College points out, they are needed for nurses' protection and esprit de corps. The report's reply that this is a "patronizing" attitude shows up very well their own attitude - the irresponsible and harsh attitude that is becoming characteristic of Britain's leaders.

It needs to be emphasized that the free-market philosophy which lies behind the proposal is as un-Christian in its own way as state socialism.

In the end it is a question of values. What do we value - economic efficiency to the exclusion of all else, or such things as kindness, chivalry and a sense of fellowship as well?

Yours sincerely,  
ALISTAIR DUFF,  
Queen's Medical Centre,  
Nottingham.

From Mr Leonard A. Jackson

Sir, Your Political Correspondent reported (April 14) that Mr Kinnoch has accused Mr MacGregor of wanting to starve the miners back to work. This is obviously not true and looks like an ill-thought-out attempt to evoke a 1926 mentality.

The closures would effect only four per cent, the redundancy terms are generous and the hardship experienced by the miner's family, quoted by Mr Kinnoch, arises directly from the fact that the husband is not working.

We would all be in the same boat if we walked out on our jobs. Nor does Mr Kinnoch condemn mass picketing, although the large police presence is manifestly due to the intimidation which preceded it.

To an outsider, the Coal Board's plan appears to promise a smaller but prosperous mining industry. Mr Kinnoch should be trying to convince the miners that they are being offered a good future, instead of lining up with Mr Scargill to lead them down a bleak road to diminished earnings and lost markets.

The mantle of statesmanship does not appear to set easily on the shoulders of the Leader of the Opposition.

Yours faithfully,  
L. A. JACKSON,  
Stable Cottage, 25  
Speldhurst Road,  
Langton Green,  
Kent.

## Conserving our cricket heritage

From Sir Edward Ford

Sir, You are in receipt of many letters on the subject of conservation. May I add to the number by pleading with those engaged in the administration of so-called first-class cricket matches to do something to conserve the traditional quality of this part of the national sporting heritage?

The game as played by county and Test sides has become the preserve of fast bowlers. They have practically forced out of business their more skilful slower-paced comrades, who - especially in one day matches - find it difficult to get a place in these teams. They have slowed the game up intolerably by taking unnecessarily long runs.

When they despair of getting wickets by genuine skill, they attempt to terrorise batsmen (especially tail-enders), who make ungainly shots to protect themselves and often give chances to fieldsmen, who would not dare to stand so close to the bat without a helmet on their heads. They have added to the difficulties of umpiring and made it hard for a call of "no ball" to be uttered in time for the batsman to take advantage of it.

I make four suggestions for the restoration of the traditional game, still played in games of lesser import by clubs, villages, etc. - in these so called first class matches.

1. A fine should be drawn (say) 20 yards behind the stumps at each end beyond which no bowler can go to start his run.

2. A line should be drawn across the middle of the pitch and any ball which pitches on the bowler's side of that line shall be a no ball and called as such by the umpire.

3. Helmets should be disallowed for fieldsmen and discouraged for batsmen.

4. The bowler should have both feet behind the popping crease when delivering the ball, and the no ball rule amended accordingly.

It would also do much to restore the dignity and enjoyment of the traditional first-class game if a measure of self-restraint in their behaviour were shown by both players and spectators.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,  
EDWARD FORD,  
Canal House,  
23 Bloomfield Road, W9,  
April 26.

## Threat to woodlands

From Mr C. N. Beattie, QC

Sir, The article by Mr Phillip Whitehead (April 25) about Britain's woodlands makes certain valid points. Diseases such as Dutch Elm disease and oak diseases should be eradicated by the public authorities, as the task is beyond private woodland owners.

But Mr Whitehead also talks nonsense. He suggests that the Forestry Commission has glutted the market with timber - this when Britain is still importing 93 per cent of its timber requirements. He suggests that ancient woodlands have been lost through complex tax avoidance schemes.

The planting of woods and the caring of them until maturity has been encouraged by the tax system, since such expenditure has in the past been treated as revenue expenditure creating losses which could be set against available income. I doubt the wisdom of giving such relief, not because they devastate our woodlands, for they do just the reverse, but because every special tax relief is in effect a subsidy.

I regard subsidies as undesirable in principle, since any worthwhile business should be able to stand on its own feet. I have accepted such tax reliefs when available, and have created beautiful woodlands in the Highlands of Scotland which are now the home of red deer which were not seen before. But I have not been able thereby to satisfy my greed, if I ever had it, as British timber like so many things British, is too expensive to compete with foreign products.

Destruction of hedgerows may be regrettable in some ways, but I feel a deep sense of gratitude to farmers when I see their broad acres carrying grass and other crops and keeping the countryside beautiful. Everything can be criticised, but let us not indulge too much the pastime of trying to drag down landowners and workers who are succeeding by their strenuous efforts in feeding the nation very well, with surpluses for others, while at the same time creating a pleasing environment.

Yours faithfully,  
C. N. BEATTIE,  
24 Old Buildings,  
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

## Unfair daffodils

From Mrs E. Murray

Sir, With regard to Dr Croft's daffodils (April 23), I am surprised that he does not know the old Celtic legend in which the defenders of the marches, being attacked from the rear while facing the enemy, stood back to back and fought to the last man; their bereaved womenfolk planted daffodils on the site, and, ever since, daffodils planted in rows have grown back to back.

There is a reference to this in the *Green Book of Llanrisant* (Cenhinen Rhylfwr). The only thing to do is to confuse the daffodils by planting them in odd-shaped flowerbeds or at random all over the lawn.

Yours,  
ELAINE MURRAY,  
26 Greyfriars Gardens,  
Wat Tyler Road,  
Blackheath, SE10.

those who really suffered might from time to time be an example for others to do something about, but it should be seen in proportion to the suffering caused.

The Federal Republic of Germany has certainly tried to compensate the victims of Nazi persecution left alive when the GDR has made no realistic attempt at all to help those living outside their territory.

Yours faithfully,  
CLEMENS N. NATHAN,  
President,  
Anglo-Jewish Association,  
Woburn House (5th Floor),  
Upper Woburn Place, WC1,  
April 26.

other dubious generalisations, taken by Mr Preston as the ground for further censure of clergy, who, he declares, arrogantly impose in churches and cathedrals alike the ASB. He asserts that such imposition deters parents from presenting their sons for cathedral choristerships.

The reasons for the reduced number of candidates for voice trials succinctly made by the Headmaster of the Choir School of Westminster Cathedral (where Cranmer's incomparable liturgy is not in use) are sufficient (letter, December 27, 1983), though here our experience is of a modest increase. To Mr Hannigan's reasons might be added the genuine problem posed by the age of entry required by schools to which choristers subsequently proceed.

There are therefore two issues. While there are no doubt clergy in cathedrals and parishes who display imperious attitudes in their zeal to implement their liturgical preferences, the general strictures are not supported by the empirical evidence. Secondly, it is fantasy to suppose

## Landscaping and BR

From the Curator of the Hertford Museum

Sir, Major Philip Banbury suggests (April 16) that the question of railway landscaping should not rate highly in the priorities of British Rail. It would appear that this was not the policy of British Rail's predecessors.

In the museum we have a poster, of the mid-nineteenth century, which states that "The Eastern Counties Railway Company offers the following advantages to Nervous Persons. Trains at reduced speed to meet their views."

The poster continues: "The Season Tickets may be 10 or 20 per cent higher than on other lines - but as the time allowed for seeing the country is so liberal on the part of the Company, the Passengers must not complain."

Apparently, this was not the official policy of the Eastern Counties Railway, as the poster was printed on behalf of the passengers.

Yours faithfully,  
A. G. DAVIES, Curator,  
Hertford Museum,  
18 Bull Plain, Hertford,  
April 17.

When they despair of getting wickets by genuine skill, they attempt to terrorise batsmen (especially tail-enders), who make ungainly shots to protect themselves and often give chances to fieldsmen, who would not dare to stand so close to the bat without a helmet on their heads. They have added to the difficulties of umpiring and made it hard for a call of "no ball" to be uttered in time for the batsman to take advantage of it.

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EDWARD FORD,  
Canal House,  
23 Bloomfield Road, W9,  
April 26.

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**Travel:** Packaged, but not pampered, from Bogotá to Brasília; beginner's guide to survival in South America

**14, 15**  
**Travel news:** Drink on eau-de-vie; Values matches fabrics; Review: Classical records of the month  
**In the Garden:** Rockeries

# THE TIMES Saturday

**16, 17**  
**Preview of Film and Theatre:** Films on TV; Critics' choice of Dance, Music, Opera, Galleries and Photography

**19, 20**  
**Family Life:** Bridge; Chess; Prize crossword; Out and About: Riding in the Peak district; and The Week Ahead

28 APRIL-4 MAY 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Readings, recitations and the chance to rub shoulders with the literati - the season of literature festivals is upon us.  
**Tim Heald joins in a week of words**

## The write stuff

The poet had not been expecting schoolchildren. He had done the school reading last night and he had been hoping for an adult audience this morning. He wanted to give them death and psychiatry and the mordant grown-up jokes. He peered round the studio, looking fazed, an early-middle-aged man with a shock of white hair and a bottle-green corduroy jacket.

"Ah", he said, unfolding his considerable length into the chair on the speaker's platform. "A lot of it is fairly, well, obscene and... well, right." A gaggle of 11-year-olds tittered. There were a hundred or so in the little theatre and the poet, Kit Wright, was in the centre of a steeply tiered "U" of seats. Most of the audience had left school years ago, but even a small number of children was unsettling when he wanted to read *From the Day Room*, poems composed in a mental hospital.

"Someone said you'd better go into the nut-house because you're bonkers", he said genially, and read:

*"Many are non-plussed  
By the unexpected behaviour  
Of their clothes  
And have mistletoe  
The art of wearing the face."*  
The occasion was this year's Lancaster Literature Festival - a week of reading and recitation and all-round bookishness which ushered in a season of such things.

From now until October poets, novelists and dramatists, usually of a slightly serious disposition, will be appearing live before their readers all over the country. Some of the festivals, such as Cheltenham, the oldest of them all, are rather grand, and feature sponsored lectures and specially imported foreign poets. Others - the Cley Little Festival of Poetry for instance - are more modest.

The Lancaster festival was, apart from a hideous literary brains trust at Bracknell, my first exposure to this emerging form of entertainment (it may be an art form but I think not). Entitled, prosaically, "Writing '84", it opened with a lecture from Alan Bennett, sponsored by Lancaster Breweries, and ended with a show called *Double or Quit*, sponsored by Provincial Insurance. This was described as "the tale of Private Percy Toplis, a 20-year-old Nottingham pit lad who led a mutiny of British troops just before Passchendaele in 1917 but escaped to become a celebrated outlaw and racketeer".

In between there was a series of lunchtime poetry readings by U.A. Fanthorpe (this year's writer-in-residence at St Martin's College, Lancaster), Anthony Thwaite, Sue Lennox, Kathleen Raine, Kit Wright and Peter Redgrove and Penelope Shuttle (who also judged the Festival Poetry Competition). The novelists, Maureen Duffy, Rose Tremain (fresh from an Arts Council Tour of the North-west), Barry Hines, Julian Barnes, Maggie Gee, Bernard MacLaverty, Maeve Binchy, David Benedictus and Christopher Matthew, took over in the evenings for "a series in which we assess the current state of the novel".

In addition to these more or less straightforward events Lancaster provided some one-off oddities. The cartoonists Posh Simmonds and Mel Calman appeared together; there was a well-attended late-night reading by the reggae rafter Benjamin Zephaniah; a full-length dance satire about violence against women; a brains trust by a panel from the Society of Authors at a local restaurant, the Pizza Margherita. "I'm not sure we'll get many new members from it", said H. R. F. Keating, the chairman, whose contribution was billed as "Assistance" offered by the Society of Authors". Frank Delaney presented readings of his favourite writing for the BBC programme *With Great Pleasure*. "Rather corny", said the woman sitting next to me, "but I suppose it will do for Radio Four".

In all there were 39 different events. The most expensive was an all-day poetry workshop for £5, but a few were free and there season-ticket reductions for people who wanted to attend all the poetry readings or all the novelists' sessions. "I don't think it would be possible for anyone to mount a festival without subsidies", says Pamela Clunies-Ross of the Poetry Society, who is the new co-

ordinator for the Literature Festivals Council. Lancaster cost around £20,000.

Public money in the shape of grants from the city and county council and North West Arts accounted for some of the funding. Private sponsorship is more difficult to come by. Local bookshops sometimes help, and local Marks & Spencer branches are generally thought to be worth approaching; but it is not easy. At Lancaster an excellent bookstall in the foyer of the Duke's Playhouse, where most of the festival was held, not only gave the punters a chance to buy books by the visiting writers (books on display were changed at least once a day) but also augmented the funds. So did bar takings.

But almost the greatest source of subsidy lies in the performances. Writers come remarkably cheap, especially the serious but often impecunious ones who are the staple of the literature-festival circuit. There may be exceptions, but most writers can expect a second-class rail fare and between £30 and £70 for their performance. Occasionally they will be put up in the local hotel. One or two of the Lancaster writers could be observed putting away the stupendous northern breakfasts at the Royal Kings Arms Hotel but most will have been given a bed and meals by friends of the festival who will expect them, in the nicest possible way, to sing for their supper.

"I think literature festivals are very agreeable", Kit Wright said. "They always take place in very posh towns like Cambridge and Cheltenham. The people are interested in what you're doing and it's 'outside'. It's a form which exists in the air as well as on the page. Communitating directly with an audience makes you feel you haven't been wasting your time. All very heartening. The camaraderie of the printed word."

Certainly the atmosphere at Lancaster was notably friendly. There is a bar in the theatre foyer where the bookstall was set up, so it was easy for literary groupies to have a beer and a browse at the same time. There was a lot of milling around and chatting and plenty of literate posters to peruse if you couldn't get at the books and didn't have anyone to talk to. The audiences varied from several hundred for a play or a popular choice like the reggae rafter between 20 and 30 for a solo writer on a difficult subject.

(Philip Howard's Law - that if a published writer delivers a talk at least half the audience will ask him to read their unpublished manuscripts - did not obtain. Judith Albiston, the festival director, suggested that this was because it was considered bad form. "You don't talk about your own work to a distinguished visitor who has been asked to hold forth about his."

Bernard MacLaverty, who lives in Scotland but comes from Ulster, was asked if he found it easy to write about the southern Irish. David Benedictus was not asked to another of his most embarrassing moments. This was at a literary luncheon when the chairman asked for questions and a man in the front asked: "What did he say his name was?"

Mr Benedictus is very much the sort of writer I would expect to find at a literary festival. He was the first person ever to be made a writer-in-residence at a public library (Sutton) and so enjoyed the experience that he is now completing another spell as a writer-in-residence, at Southampton. One of his specialities is getting novelists to read an entire book out loud in one all-night session, a form of literary masochism which regularly attracts a dozen or so insomniacs to the library.

Unlike many successful authors, he feels an obligation to the unpublished. "So many people", he said, "have written away in cupboards or bottom drawers, and if nothing else they need someone who is not family to read it."

Many of the audience at Lancaster were much better at looking at writers as supposed to look - faintly woolly and abstracted and Michael Footish - than the writers themselves. Frank Delaney, as so often, looked like a man who has arrived at your front door with an interesting new religion to sell, and Bernard MacLaverty was the very image of the neat unobtrusive schoolmaster.



Musical musing on Passchendaele from Howarth and Fox ... while down at the pizza parlour H. R. F. Keating is on the menu ...



... rhymes from Mike Rosen ... words from the Cumbrian bard, Norman Nicholson ...



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### Index to a summer of literature festivals

The next literature festival is the Essex festival at Colchester which runs from Tues to May 12. Russell Hoban Prize Session for schools on Thurs. Hugh Brogan on his new Arthur Ransome biography on May 5; an all-day Poetry Press Fair put on by small poetry publishers on May 8; three feminist poets on May 9, followed by D. M. Thomas and Ruth Rosen; Margaret Drabble on May 10; Alan Brownjohn and George Macbeth read their poetry on May 11; and three separate group poetry readings on May 12. For more details contact Joe Altard, Department of Literature, Essex University, Colchester (0206 862288) or Michael Prochak, the Arts Centre, Church Street, Colchester (0206 577301).

Bracknell: This more modest festival overlaps with Essex; May 10 to May 12. This year's, dedicated to new writers, is presented by Maureen Duffy. There will be some 50 presentations including appearances by Fay Weldon, D. M. Thomas, Alasdair Gray, Alan Bennett and Christopher Fry. Organized by Michael Dawson, Festival Office, Ickley West, Yorkshire LS28 8DG.

Cheltenham: Oct 14 to Oct 21. Offers Michael Foot on Disraeli and Professor Glynnis Wickham on Shakespeare; a new Howard Brenton play about Shelley; a "major" Johnson celebration; cantenary tributes to Damon Runyan and Sean O'Casey; and

Paul Foot on "Orwell and 1984". There is also a workshop session at which any poets so minded may read their work out loud and literary Spurling will adjudicate and award the annual Cheltenham award for the year's most unfairly unappreciated book. Organizer: Jeremy Tyndall, Town Hall, Imperial Square, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Kent: Autumn, but dates not confirmed. There is "Contemporary Women Writers". Details from John Rice, South East Arts, 9-10 Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Newcastle upon Tyne: A general arts festival but will have a literature section in the last week of October. Contact Pam Jarvis, c/o Arts Marketing, 10 Osborne Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Oxford: Poetry Festival, Oct 25 to 28. There are hopes that Yevgeny Zhdanov can be persuaded to come on after his Cheltenham reading. Another highlight will be the annual poetry competition which usually attracts more than 500 entries. This year's judges are Gillian Clarke and Maureen Duffy. More details from Adrian Utvinoff, Oxford Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford OX1 2AQ.

All these festivals belong to the Literature Festivals Council whose co-ordinator is Pamela Clunies-Ross, LFC, 21 Earls Court Square, London SW5. Other festivals devoted exclusively or partly to literature include:

Cley Little Festival of Poetry: May 16 to May 18. Organizer Mrs Megan Allen, Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Briston, Norfolk.

Malvern Fringe Festival: May 12 to June 2. Offers some poetry. Information Office, Grange Road, Great Malvern, Worcestershire.

Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival: Readings by poets and actors and actresses every Sun through July and Aug. Festival Director: Roger Pringle, Shakespeare Centre, Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Rye Festival: Sept 7 to Sept 9. Town festival with 30 events covering a wide range of arts including some poetry. Organizer: Carolyn Simpson, 30 Marmalade Street, Rye, Sussex TN31 7EU.



... Zephaniah leads the reggae ranting

Mr Benedictus, however, was in red running shoes and a T-shirt with the motif "Nice guys finish last". He was also wearing his usual unmatched socks, a distinctive personal trade mark. This, one felt, was a proper writer, a man you could imagine living very frugally in a garret. Best of all, he turned up with a large, rather battered suitcase full of his books which he sold at a reduced price.



## atkins takes a tour by bus, boat and plane across South America . . .





TRAVEL/2

# ... and Ben Box provides some guidelines Pack a sense of humour with the torch and water tablets

Anyone who has read the works of Gabriel Garcia Marquez will be aware of the "marvellous reality" of South America. You can discover it every day, in the harsh juxtaposition of satellite shanty towns and wealthy cities, in delightful incongruities like listening to beautiful traditional music in the middle of the empty Venezuelan savannah, surrounded by earth-moving equipment. It is a land of incomparable contrasts, requiring patience and a sense of humour in the visitor.

For the independent traveller there are four common itineraries: Mexico and Central America; the Andean countries from Colombia southward to Bolivia; Brazil; and the southernmost countries, Chile and Argentina. If precolonial archaeology is your special interest, you would choose either of the first two. Of course, there is no need to restrict yourself to one of these four routes; for instance, travel to Brazil from Colombia or Peru by the river Amazon is popular, if time-consuming.

Not only does each country have its own history, customs and atmosphere, but it also contains different landscapes: an example is Ecuador, where Pacific coast, tropical lowlands, snow-capped Andean volcanoes and tributaries of the Amazon are all within easy reach of each other (Ecuadorian territory also includes the unique Galapagos Islands).

not to smoke, drink alcohol or eat heavily for 24 hours. Worse symptoms (headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting) can be treated with medicines, or by descending to a lower altitude and coming back up slowly.

**On the move**

Transport in South America is never dull and rarely on time. Air services (the quickest, but most expensive) are good in some countries, for example Brazil, but overbooking is normal everywhere, so always confirm a flight at least 72 hours in advance. Airports in the tropics can be closed by rain, and in the Andes by any number of inclement types of weather. Small planes are often used for flights over the Nazca Lines and the Angel Falls, for example - don't have a big breakfast beforehand.

Train travel is fine if you are in no hurry; the lines in Peru, Ecuador, and from San José to Puerto Limón (Costa Rica) are among the most interesting in the world, scenically and in terms of engineering.

In Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, Mexico and some of Central America, first-class bus travel is

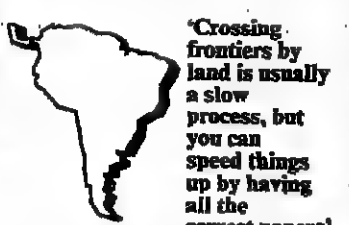
(A letter I sent to the Ecuadorian jungle region "took four months to arrive.")

**Border controls**

Crossing frontiers by land is usually a slow process, but you can speed things up by having all the correct papers, and by investigating the exit and entry formalities of each country (in some places, the immigration offices are not at the border - if you fail to get the necessary stamps, you will be turned back).

Some countries (for example, Colombia, Peru, Honduras) require you to have a ticket out before you will be let in, but official demands are not always checked; on two visits to Colombia I was never asked to produce such a ticket. A miscellaneous charges order (MCO) from an IATA airline may suffice, as may a return ticket to Britain from another country. Another entry requirement may be that you have enough money to cover your stay; here again, practices vary, from the strict US\$300 in Nicaragua to unofficial but unspecified amounts (Brazil).

For most countries, British citizens need a passport and a tourist card, obtained either before arrival from a consulate or on arrival, or at the border. The details with the country's consulate in Britain. Guatemala has no consular representation in Britain; you get the obligatory visa either in Paris, or in a country visited en route. British must also have a visa to visit Argentina (until relations improve, only businessmen are likely to get one). The same applies to Cuba and Venezuela (if arriving overland (if arriving by air, an entry card is given in lieu).



Crossing frontiers by land is usually a slow process, but you can speed things up by having all the correct papers.

**What to take**

Adequate screening lotions to protect against the burning South American sun are essential. At high altitudes the rarefied air will promote sunburn and dry skin. The temperature difference between sun and shade, and between night and day, can be very marked. Open canoes, the only means of transport in the wet season in parts of Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil, afford no protection from sun or rain, so a hat and a large plastic sheet to cover your belongings are important.

Wherever you go, tough walking shoes, a torch and water-soluble tablets are useful. You should have inoculations against typhoid, tetanus, polio and yellow fever, and your GP and a good guide book should be consulted on any precautions. You will need insect repellent, travel insurance and camera film. Binoculars are useful.

Altitude sickness is unavoidable at heights above 3,000 metres, especially if you arrive by air at La Paz (Bolivia), Quito (Ecuador) or Bogotá (Colombia). The best remedy for shortness of breath and a pounding heart is to rest, and

comfortable and efficient, but on second-class buses and in the Andes (because of the terrain and the state of the buses) never expect a journey to end when the timetable says it will.

On buses, beware of offers of (drugged) cigarettes or food from which you may wake up literally naked.

**Booking ahead**

If travelling on a tight budget, it is cheaper (but slower) to pay as you go along rather than booking ahead through agencies, but there may be occasions when it may be necessary to book accommodation (and transport) in advance: Carnival in Rio de Janeiro or Trinidad, the Inti Raymi (Sun) festival in Cuzco, Peru (June 24), at Easter time, at Christmas, which is a major holiday period especially in beach resorts, on Galapagos Islands' package tours (the only way of getting there), and in good hotels at major tourist sites.

If you are intending to stay in a hotel belonging to an international chain, there is no problem, but if dealing directly with a hotel, allow plenty of time for your letter and the reply to reach their destination.

**Where to go**

When you arrive in a country or city, it is a good idea to go to the local tourist office. However, many tourists make the mistake of recognizing the existence of cheap lodgings, in which case you must resort to asking around, or following the boys who, in many countries, meet buses touring rooms. It is wise to exclude from your itinerary places where fighting is taking place (at present, the Ayacucho region of Peru, Nicaragua's borders, parts of Colombia, El Salvador and Guatemala), and drug-growing and trafficking areas of Colombia, Bolivia, Peru and Brazilian Amazonia.

**What it costs**

Fluctuations in exchange rates and varying costs of living between countries make it difficult to predict how much money you will need per day. For those living by the cheapest possible means (free camping, hitch-hiking), from \$7 to \$9 might be enough.

Agencies that specialize in, or have detailed knowledge of, travel to South America: Journey Latin America, 10 Barley Mow Passage, London, W4 (01-747 3108); Margarita Travel, 4 Red Lion Street, Richmond, Surrey (01-940 2301/5661); Melia Travel, 12 Dover Street, London, W1 (01-491 3881); South American Travel (Clarendon) Ltd, 31 Exmouth Market, London, EC1 (01-278 3451); Trailfinders, 48 Ebury Court Road, London, W8 (01-573 9631); Transatlantic Wings, 70 Pembroke Road, London, W8 (01-602 4021); Twickenham, 22 Church Street, Twickenham (01-892 7806); and Kour (see page 12).

Margarita, South American Travel and Twickenham can arrange organized holidays (including those to the Galapagos Islands), while Journey Latin America, Trailfinders, Twickenham World and Encounter Overland, 280 Old Brompton Road, London, SW5 (01-370 6845), offer adventure trips.

Fares British Caledonian IATA excursion fares to some major cities (for comparative purposes; low season till June 1984): London to Mexico City, £275; to Bogotá, £285; to Lima, £1,065; to Rio de Janeiro, £1,242; to Buenos Aires, £1,375; to Santiago, £1,524 (BCal does not fly direct to Lima, Buenos Aires or Santiago, but there are European airlines that do: Iberia via Madrid; Lufthansa via Frankfurt; Mary



airlines serve Latin America from Europe, or, if you take a cheap flight across the North Atlantic, from the US. Discount fares (up to 60 per cent on some tickets) can be obtained from most of the above agencies. Another cheap alternative is to fly the charter services offered by French agencies: Le Point, 4 rue des Orphelins, 68200 Mulhouse; 2 place Wagram, 75017 Paris; or Union-Voyages, 83 rue Monsieur-le-Prince, 75006 Paris. The national airlines of Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela and Brazil offer tickets for unlimited travel within the country (only purchasable abroad), costing on average US\$200 for 15 days. The AmeriPass operates on railways in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The author is an associate editor of *The South American Handbook* (1984 edition, £18.50. Trade and Travel Publications, Bath).

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London	1.11.2.11 Nov	£111
London	3.4.5 Nov	£111
London	6.7.8 Nov	£111
London	9.10.11 Nov	£111
London	12.13.14 Nov	£111
London	15.16.17 Nov	£111
London	18.19.20 Nov	£111
London	21.22.23 Nov	£111
London	24.25.26 Nov	£111
London	27.28.29 Nov	£111
London	30.11.1.12 Dec	£111
London	3.4.5 Dec	£111
London	6.7.8 Dec	£111
London	9.10.11 Dec	£111
London	12.13.14 Dec	£111
London	15.16.17 Dec	£111
London	18.19.20 Dec	£111
London	21.22.23 Dec	£111
London	24.25.26 Dec	£111
London	27.28.29 Dec	£111
London	30.12.31 Dec	£111

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## TRAVEL/3

## Bargain deals in the shoulder season



Package-holiday bookings for the July/August peak period have been fairly buoyant this year, but bargain offers coming through for May and June indicate that there are still plenty of holidays available for the "shoulder" season.

Thomson Holidays, the market leader, has already sold more summer holidays than its total for the whole of last season, but says that it still has many places available in May/June and September/October. It has reduced the price of several thousand May and June holidays by up to £35 per person under its "Square Deal" scheme.

Horizon has a similar scheme, "Money Savers", with offers such as £237, inclusive of insurance, for a one-week half-board holiday on the Algarve at the end of May, or £209 for seven nights in a first-class hotel on the Neapolitan Riviera. Horizon still has a "reasonable number" of June holidays available in Italy, Greece, Lanzarote and the Algarve. Global says that Spain and the Balearic islands are proving by far the most popular destinations, but there is still space outside the peak season between mid-June and early September. There are still many holidays available in Italy.

Global also has seats still available on its Overland coach tours to Oberammergau for the passion play.

## Hongkong non-stop

Cathay Pacific Airways will introduce the first non-stop flight on the 6,280-mile journey from Hongkong to London on May 5, cutting two and a half hours off the normal time. It will operate once weekly on Saturdays, supplementing the daily service which makes an intermediate stop in Bahrain. Cathay already operates a weekly non-stop flight in the eastbound direction.

## Free insurance

Britannia Ferries is offering free AA Five Star vehicle and travel insurance worth almost £30 on many of its sailings this summer. The deal will be available on three-quarters of its

sailings, including many in the July/August peak season, on the Portsmouth-St Malo and Plymouth-Roscoff routes, as well as the Plymouth-Santander service.

## Cheap with children

Blue Arrow Holdings, the specialist villa and apartment company, has cut £50 off the cost of all children's holidays, even during July and August, in its new "Family Holidays" programme.

The reduction applies to youngsters between the ages of two and 11, when one or two children are accompanied by two adults and when three or four children are accompanied by four adults. Children under two years of age travel for only £10. Blue Arrow operates to Majorca, the Algarve, the Costa Blanca and the Costa del Sol. Information from Abta travel agents or from Blue Arrow at Blue Arrow House, Camp Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire (0727 69111).

## Round trip

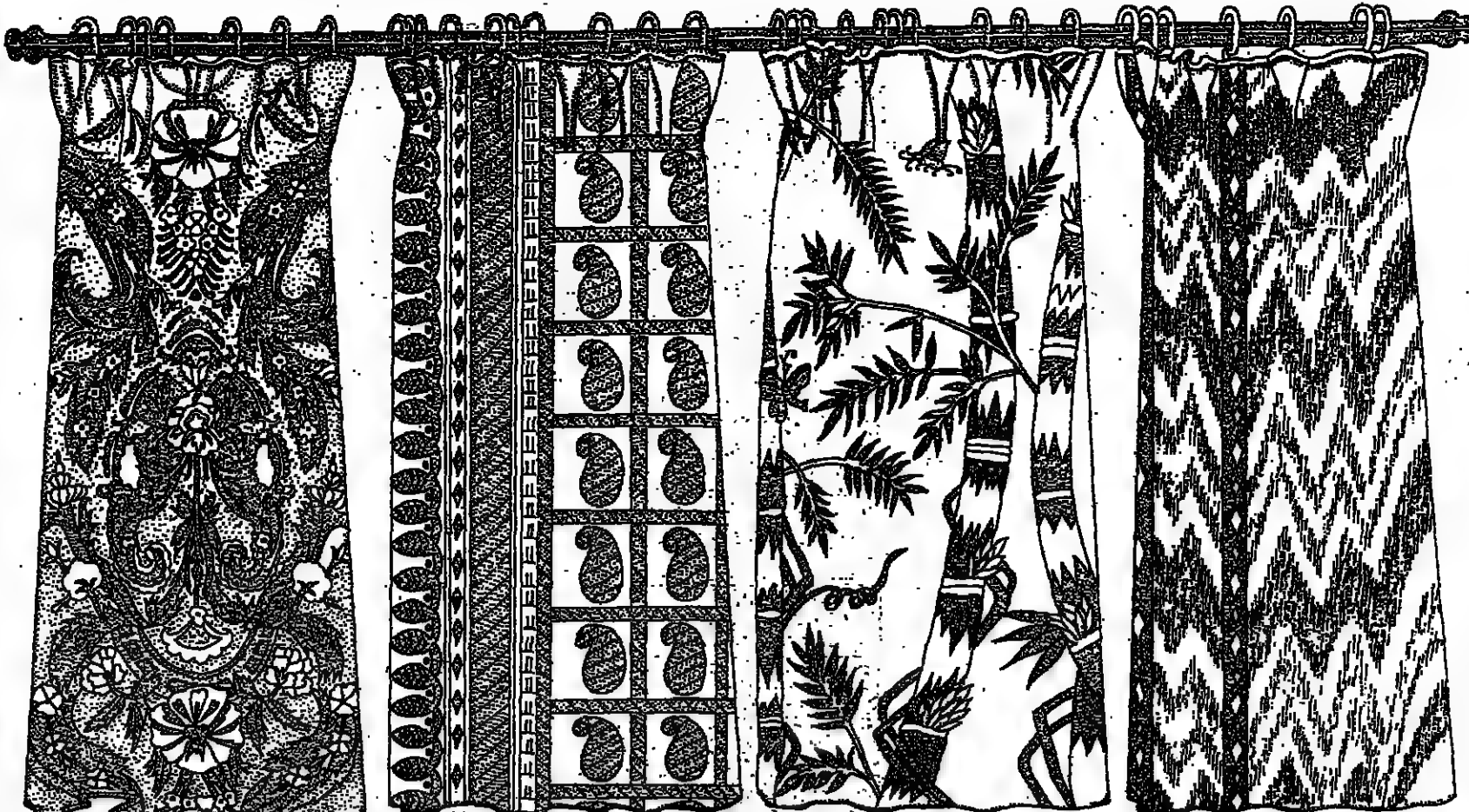
British Caledonian Airways has introduced an unusual round-the-world fares programme featuring transatlantic travel on Cunard's QE2. Passengers can take the five-day voyage between Southampton and New York for a minimum supplement of £206 on top of the normal round-the-world fare of £999 offered by British Caledonian in conjunction with Northwest Orient Airlines. A total of 21 sailings are available throughout the year under the scheme.

## Mississippi bound

A specialist tour operator, Holiday in America, is marketing inclusive holidays to New Orleans for visitors to the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition which is being opened by President Reagan on May 12. Accommodation is available in three New Orleans hotels at prices from \$649, which includes the return flight from London on Pan American. More than 12 million people are expected to visit the Exposition, which is being held on an 80-acre site on the banks of the Mississippi. Information from Abta agents or Holiday in America, 6-8 Old Bond Street, London W1 (629 6838).

Philip Ray

## VALUES/Beryl Downing finds a new key to mixing fabrics



Two unrelated designs coordinated by colour. Right, Lahore has bands of large, paisley shapes in clear blue or white. Mabel, above, is a blue on white, all-over paisley with a border. Both on heavy cotton, £17.25 metre. Available in any colours to order. By Michael Szell

Two similar designs coordinated by scale. Right, Lahore has bands of large, paisley shapes in clear blue or white. Mabel, above, is a blue on white, all-over paisley with a border. Both on heavy cotton, £17.25 metre. Available in any colours to order. By Michael Szell

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## Time to check your coordinates

Television's recent flirtation with the Raj may cause a temporary fashion flurry, but the effect on furnishing fabrics will be much more lasting. A collection of Indian-inspired textiles launched this week introduces a note of lavish opulence which is far removed from the porridge tweed of the homespun 1970s.

They are designed by Michael Szell, one of the brightest talents in our creative world. For 15 years he has been providing inspired textiles from his small showroom at 47 Sloane Avenue, London SW3, supplying embassies, historic houses and royal palaces, as well as rather smaller-scale interiors.

"His ideas are always well ahead of their time. In the late 1960s, long before the craze for metallic finishes took hold, he was inventing fabrics decorated by hand with silver foil, and for years he has been going to India on an annual pilgrimage to get fresh inspiration. "I feel a great affinity with his artistic history", he says. "We have almost lost the art of making to individual requirements - most manufacturers are only willing to do special runs if customers buy hundreds of yards. In India their arts and crafts are as alive today as they were 2,000 years ago and they like to make things individually in special colours, as I do."

"Design is a vehicle for colouring. The success of any design depends on how good the colours are and I feel that primaries and pastels are now out of date. The new feeling is for clear, true colour - apricot is pure apricot, gold and blue are pure, not muted. "Colour is also the vehicle for coordinating fabrics. For years everything matched everything else - you had curtains, chair covers, cushions, wallpaper all in the same design. Now this has reached the high street and interior designers don't want it any more. "The new style is to mix designs you might think would never go together, but actually work wonderfully because the colouring is right. To prove his point he pulled out a striking crimson-splashed yellow silk with a traditional

floral tapestry design called Gobelin and hung it with a typically Indian block print, Orissa (both illustrated). Despite their dramatically different characters the two fabrics looked in perfect harmony because of the clever repetition and complementing of colour.

All the silks in this new collection are a visual feast, some sparkling with gold and silver like a raja's tunic. Canna, based on the flower of that name which grows in Rajasthan, looks sumptuous in turquoise and silver. Venezia, inspired by the Venetian window grilles that were adopted by Indian designers, shimmers with silver and gold, again on turquoise.

Such opulence could be ostentatious, but it is all handled with such style that it succeeds in being lavish without being vulgar. For those who prefer less drama in their drawing rooms, his range also includes some extremely subtle effects in pale apricots and golds or white on white.

Only the best-quality fabrics are used - silk, moiré, chintz and cotton - and most designs are available in all of them, from £15 to £35 per metre. Everything is printed to order in London and can be supplied in two to three weeks. As all colourings are done individually, there is a minimum order of 25 metres.

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## DRINK

## Colourless spirits with a kick

The skier may delight in a mid-morning nip of Poiré Williams; the tourist in Alsace may enjoy a glass of Framboise; but both may be sorely disappointed if they expect to relive the taste of their holidays back in Britain. Very few wine merchants carry any eau-de-vie at all, let alone the range that can be found on the Continent.

Real eau-de-vie are fruit brandies, and should not be confused with other fruit liqueurs or digestifs. Those cheap, low strength cherry, peach or apricot brandies you see on shop shelves, for example, are not the same thing at all. A true high-strength eau-de-vie is a spirit distilled from the fermented juice of fresh fruit, including grapes. Cognac, brandy, armagnac and marc all fit into this category, as does Normandy's calvados. Yet although it is technically correct to call all these spirits eau-de-vie, the term is usually reserved for alcoholic, colourless, dry fruit brandies, the best of which are made in northern Switzerland, Alsace and the Black Forest.

The eau-de-vie from Alsace, in their tall, white, fluted bottles, are probably the best known in Britain and are considered by many to be the finest. The Alsace distillers are certainly imaginative: they produce a staggering range of eau-de-vie, made from sloes (Prunelle), rowanberries (Sorbus), rosehips (Cynorhodon) and even holly berries (Baie de Houx) as well as the most usual fruit varieties.

The secret of making a good eau-de-vie is to watch the fermentation temperature - too hot and the beautiful fruit bouquet will disappear, too cold and the fermentation will be too slow. It is vital, too, to bottle these eau-de-vie as soon as possible after distillation (again to keep their powerful fragrance intact) either in ordinary bottles or in large glass jars if a more aged style is required.

The French call these water-white eau-de-vie *alcools blancs* and any French, Swiss or German farmer who has a glut of fruit is likely to distil the excess into eau-de-vie for his own use or to sell the fruit to the nearest distillery. The most robust fruits such as cherries, plums and blackcurrants are fermented in the usual way, but raspberries, strawberries and other soft fruits are macerated

in a neutral spirit first and then distilled in order to preserve their delicate flavour. Fruit with stones, such as apricots and cherries, are usually fermented with their kernels, to impart an almond-like and faintly bitter tang to the eau-de-vie.

Kirsch, a double-distilled eau-de-vie made from cherries, is probably the most widely produced. I have yet to find one that is agreeable enough to drink on its own although most would perk up fresh pineapple with ease. I much prefer Mirabelle, made from golden plums, which taken chilled is a digestif to delight. One of the finest must be Schladerer's Mirabelle from the famous Black Forest farm founded in 1844 by Alfred Schladerer. This 42° spirit, with its charming, delicate plummy taste, would be superb served cold with all sorts of fruit, flans and is also most worth buying simply for its ornate, red-sealed embossed bottle (Berry Bros & Rudd, 3 St James's Street, London SW1, £15.35). Even better is Schladerer's glorious 40° William's Birne a delicious, classic eau-de-vie that smells and tastes strongly of pears (Berry Bros, £15.10).

Dozens of Alsace firms produce eau-de-vie and of them all F. E. Trimbach are probably the most impressive. Trimbach 45° Mirabelle Réserve (Oudin £11.40) has a ripe plum-like bouquet backed by a very positive taste. Oudin also sell an aged Grande Réserve 45° Framboise (£12.50) whose oily, marc-like bouquet may take some getting used to; persevere, for its velvety texture and intense taste of ripe raspberries are heavenly. Eau-de-vie addicts should definitely visit La Vigneronne (105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7), who stock 19 different eau-de-vie including the sappy, woody Baie de Houx (La Vigneronne, £8.45 for half bottle) and an elegant, soft, blackcurrant Cassis (£7.95 for the half), both from Maison Rocassel, as well as a trio of miniatures from Bertrand in Alsace (95p).

The Bertrand eau-de-vie are much more robust than the Rocassel range and their Poiré Williams has an earthy, fiery character with a lot of pear flavour too. Harrods stocks Bertrand Poiré Williams complete with whole pear inside the bottle (£23), and yes, they really do tie the bottles on to a branch, carefully tucking into each one a young pear which grows to its full size inside the glass.

The quick turnover does mean that the lower-priced places are here today and gone tomorrow, but it also means that there is always something new and interesting to look at. Prices are from £100 and the shop is called Young Stephen, 1 Burlington Gardens, London W1.

Young couples looking for engagement rings might not immediately think of the upper reaches of New Bond Street as bargain-hunting country. But just round the corner in Burlington Gardens, Stephen Burton is offering a rather unusual deal: he does not put a mark-up of more than 25 per cent on any jewellery up to £10,000.

Whether you are shopping for a trousseau or for something cool and glamorous for a summer holiday, one of the best places in London to find good value is a little shop called Stolie at 54 Park Road, London NW1.

Diane Ledger, who designs and makes everything she sells, has produced a new collection for summer in delicate cotton volles - perfect for hot holiday climates. The nightdress shown has a panel of lace inset down the front and edging the skirt; £28; the matching puff-sleeved negligée is £48.

She also has a range in pure silk, bordered with exquisite Catala lace, which she will make up in any size. One nightdress has a bodice entirely of lace and a matching kimono with a waterfall of 7in-wide lace cascading down the sleeves; £120 the set.

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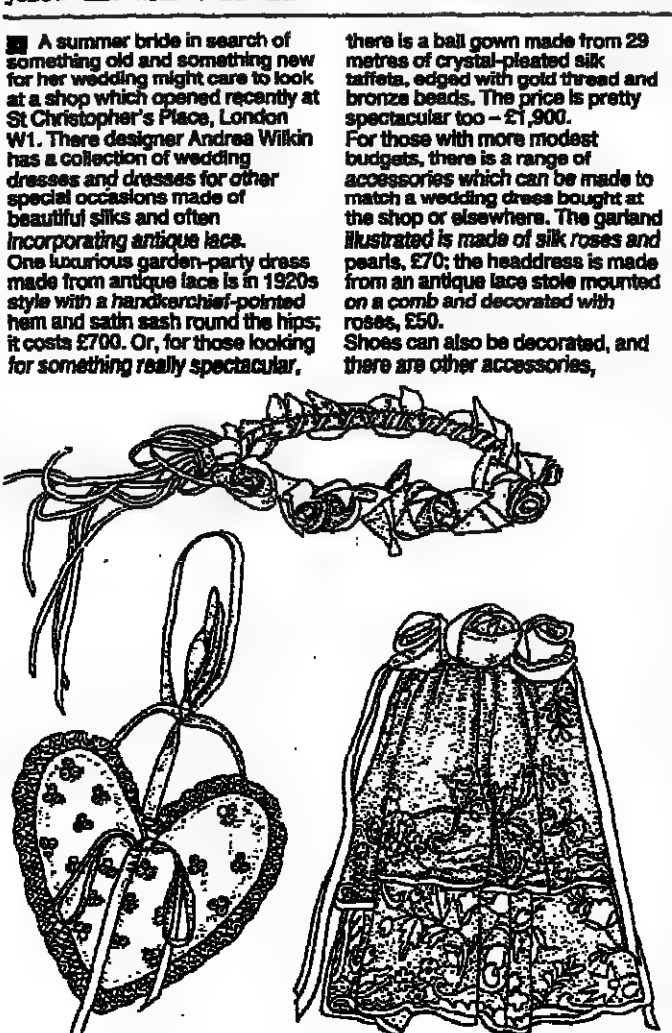
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## SHOPFRONT on weddings

including Dorothy bags and lace gloves. The best-studded satin heart is given to all those who buy an Andrea Wilkin wedding dress. The bride hangs it on her dressing-table mirror as a memento of the wedding day.

Wedding dresses are from £270 to about £1,500 and all the accessories and dresses are made in Northampton by Andrea's team of 17 seamstresses. Customers may order from the collection in London and at the Northampton shop at 159 Adnott Road (0604 31384), or Andrea will design to commission. She is available in London by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays (01-486 4744).

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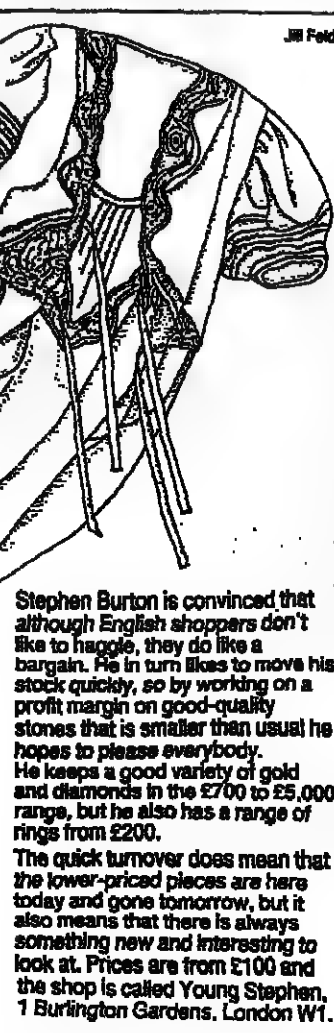
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Diane Ledger, who designs and makes everything she sells, has produced a new collection for summer in delicate cotton volles - perfect for hot holiday climates. The nightdress shown has a panel of lace inset down the front and edging the skirt; £28; the matching puff-sleeved negligée is £48.

She also has a range in pure silk, bordered with exquisite Catala lace, which she will make up in any size. One nightdress has a bodice entirely of lace and a matching kimono with a waterfall of 7in-wide lace cascading down the sleeves; £120 the set.

Stephen Burton is convinced that although English shoppers don't like to haggle, they do like a bargain. He in turn likes to move his stock quickly, so by working on a profit margin on good-quality stones that is smaller than usual he hopes to please everybody. He keeps a good variety of gold and diamonds in the £700 to £5,000 range, but he also has a range of rings from £200.

The quick turnover does mean that the lower-priced places are here today and gone tomorrow, but it also means that there is always something new and interesting to look at. Prices are from £100 and the shop is called Young Stephen, 1 Burlington Gardens, London W1.

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REVIEW Classical records of the month

Superlative eloquence that puts Brendel in a class of his own

It is a rare pleasure to be able to give a whole-hearted recommendation to a recording of one of the great cornerstones of the repertoire. But here there is no doubt: Alfred Brendel's new set of the Beethoven piano concertos is a masterpiece. It demands to be heard by anyone who has any interest in Beethoven, in music or in life.

Really there is not much more to be said, since Brendel says it all so eloquently in his performances. Any number of pianists can make the piano sing: Brendel alone can make it speak. Not a phrase, scarcely a note is played without seeming to make some important point in an almost palpable drift of thought. And where in another pianist this closeness of attention might be cloying, in Brendel it is not, because he works so much in a language of rhythm, weight and accent (and to a lesser extent colour).

To describe the expressive character of his playing of even a single phrase is difficult, simply because he is not thinking in those terms: he is thinking music. Yet his approach is far from being "purely" musical. Rather it touches with magnificent impurity on splendour, doubt, liveliness, comedy, folly and a thousand other attributes that music can contain and not merely express.

The effect of such abundance is, I fear, to make other performances sound dumb. Even Brendel's teacher, Edwin Fischer, to whose influence he has paid public tribute, seems a dim illuminator of the three later concertos when one's mind is filled with what the pupil has found there. In the "Emperor", for instance, one may admire Fischer's intimacy with the music, his disinclination to make it imperial or imperious, and yet his sparseness; but after Brendel one wonders why he is content to let passages sail past without their being examined intently for what they have to say.

Nor does James Levine, the conductor in the Brendel recordings, come off at all badly from the comparison with Fischer's conductor in this concerto. Furtwängler, who shares with Brendel a feeling for the dynamic of the music, its progress through time, and if he tends to work by force where Brendel works by argument, the difference is inherent in the nature of these concertos. Indeed, the two complement each other marvellously, the orator and the essayist moving towards the same conclusions by their necessarily different routes.

Indeed, it is a strength of these performances that the orchestra never takes on a soloistic quality, even in the slow movements: the playing there is often lovely, but always in an impersonal way, as if since Beethoven's

Beethoven: Piano Concertos Nos 1-5 Brendel, Chicago SO/Levine. Philips 411 189-1 (four records), cassette 411 189-2, CD 411 189-3. Beethoven: Piano Concertos Nos 3-5 Edwin Fischer, Philharmonia/Pantheon. Furtwängler, EMI RLS 2800013 (two records). Brahms: Piano Concerto No 2 Ashkenazy, Vienna PO/Hallmark. Decca 410 199-1, cassette 410 199-4.

concertos, quite unlike, say, Mozart's, are soliloquies and not conversations.

Brahms also needs companionship between soloist and orchestra, but of a different kind: it is a dialogue of rhetorical gestures rather than sprightly imaginings. That, at least, is the way it sounds in a superb new recording from Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Vienna Philharmonic under Bernard Haitink. Both partners, but most particularly the orchestra, have the ability to range through Brahmsian moods from bear-like engulfing power to the gentlest echoes of slow waltz, and even to do so within a single passage. The orchestral music of the first movement is rich in such variety, to the extent that all Ashkenazy's poetry and brilliance may seem only the

stimulus for, and decoration of, Brahms's grandest symphony, played with ripeness, nostalgia and charm.

But why do Brendel, Levine and Beethoven have so much more going for them? The answer does not, I think, lie in the fact that the Philips set was recorded live, even though Brendel himself has been very forthcoming about the advantages of recorded concert performances as alternatives to studio versions. Perhaps there is a zest here that the lonely studio musician would not be spurred to, and perhaps studio "perfection" would have muted Brendel's grunts as he reaches for a delayed upbeat, which would have been a shame.

Nevertheless, the excitement of these recordings is not just that of being present with a Chicago audience last summer. It is that of hearing one of Brendel's glorious cascades, filled with living, breathing notes, ring down the curtain on the sentimental interlude in the middle of an electric first movement to the First Concerto. It is that of hearing slow movement sensibility that challenges and does not wilt. It is that of hearing music made the most it can be.

Paul Griffiths



Keys to enjoyment: Alfred Brendel (top) and Riccardo Muti

Cracking of the code reveals a Baroque treasure trove

The French baroque has proved one of the most difficult musical styles to recreate. Its elaborate code is only gradually becoming understood: the complex, heavily ornamental surface can seem off-putting and cold until one penetrates to the passion which its ritual forms control so rigidly. In this process the use of period instruments and the rediscovery of rhetorical style suited to the music have both been crucial factors, and Sigiswald Kuijken's new recordings of the opera *Zoroastre* must be accounted one of the most successful attempts so far.

It cannot of course conjure up the dance, drama and spectacle which were such an integral part of the French baroque opera. Nor is it essentially a very dramatic reading of the score; its virtues are altogether quieter and more restrained. What it does is to take every line of poetry, every nuance of emotion, with absolute seriousness, and thus it projects the opera as a work which addresses vital issues: this is not merely decorative music.

There are two substantially different versions of Rameau's score, one for the original production of 1749 and one for a revival of 1756: the latter is preferred here. In both, the element of magic and sorcery is great, and depicted in choruses and orchestral writing of the highest splendour. In the second there is rather more love

Rameau: *Zoroastre* Soloists, Collegium Vocale Gent, La Fémé Baroque/Sigiswald Kuijken. German Harmonia Mundi (from Conifer) 1C 157 1999813 (four records). Rameau: *Les Indes Galantes* orchestra soloists Orchestra de la Chapelle Royale/Philippe Herreweghe. French Harmonia Mundi HM 1180. Louis Couperin: Complete Harpsichord Works Davitt Moroney. French Harmonia Mundi HM 1124-28 (5 records).

interest, and some gorgeously sensual dances are added. With its vivid symbolism of the sun (which anticipates Mozart's *Zauberflöte* in some of its sonorities) the 1756 score is a rich treasure-trove of instrumental music, all of it exquisitely played at supple tempi with flexible rhythms by La Petite Bande.

The fierce choruses, most prominent in the tempestuous fourth act, are not allowed to overwhelm the textures, and the ringing chains of sevenths in "Quel bonheur!" are thrillingly light. Among the soloists, John Elwes in the title role has an impressively high tessitura, and sounds strained at the top of his most lyrically extended passages. Gregory Reinhart is a superbly sinister Abramane, blasting through his syncretized third-act aria - surely one of the highlights of the whole French pre-*Gluck* repertoire - without drowning the gritty dissonances of the baroque.

The women are perhaps less assured: Greta de Reyghere is

good at the fierce music in Amélie's part, but her quieter music is less convincing. Mieke van der Sluis's Erénice is very flutery, but Agnes Mellon's Céphise is much more focused and expressive, to beautiful effect in her second-act slow air. In the final act, rewritten in 1756, a serene radiance overcomes the music to glorious effect. But be warned: the booklet contains an English note but no English libretto; you have to content with following a reproduction of the original French 1756 publication.

Equally sprightly and deft orchestral playing can be heard on the new disc of music from Rameau's *Les Indes Galantes*, drawn from performances which Philippe Herreweghe conducted recently in France. (The leader of the orchestra, as on the previous record, is François Fernandez.) This took me back to an old Collegium Aureum recording of practically the same music, and the comparison served to highlight this French performance's greater delicacy of attack and cleanliness of phrasing. The final Chaconne accumulates enormous power, and the variety of continuo instruments is especially welcome.

The harpsichord music of François Couperin has long stood as a pinnacle of the French baroque achievement, but a huge new five-disc set puts firmly beside that the harpsichord music of the composer's uncle, Louis Couperin. He was organist of the church of Saint-Gervais in Paris, and taught the viol at court. His harpsichord music consists of 132 surviving pieces, found in one main manuscript in Paris and dotted through many other collections.

Few of these sources indicate any order for the music, so Davitt Moroney (who has edited all this music himself) has compiled his own suites from the pieces - some long like the 16-movement Suite in D Minor, and some much shorter, like the four-movement A Minor Suite. The latter is mysteriously marked "Guy Oldham, because it apparently comes from a manuscript owned by Oldham mainly containing organ music, which has yet to be published."

The diversity and richness of this music is astonishing, and Moroney, by subtle commentary of the resources of three original harpsichords of the time, brings out all the latent emotion in them. Most striking of all are the unmeasured Preludes, written down simply as a string of notes but here woven into powerfully directed improvisations. The final Chaconnes, as sumptuous as those in Rameau's operas, are sturdily done with just the right resonance and sense of held-back strength. In all, an ideal marriage of musicology and performance: a major achievement, worthy to stand beside Kenneth Gilbert's historic complete recording of François Couperin's harpsichord music.

Nicholas Kenyon

Sure stroke of a past master

It was at the start of the 1970s that Riccardo Muti announced himself as an international opera conductor at the Salzburg Festival. The work was Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*. The cast was not much good, indeed it was pathetic by Salzburg standards. But Muti had arrived and his presence made a visit to the performance worthwhile.

Not surprisingly none of those singers is used in his first recording of the work, but the Muti stamp is unmistakable. Individual instruments are picked out of the Philharmonia, just as they were from the Covent Garden Orchestra when he was doing Bellini's *Capuleti e Montecchi* before Ernesto's *cavalina*. There is spring in the playing, not just the first warmth of the year for the serenade, "Com'è gentile, la notte a mezzo aprile", but a freshness and lightness of touch throughout.

After Muti himself the main reason for buying the set is Sesto Bruscantini in the title role. He is one of the last representatives of the generation of *opera buffa* singers nurtured and encouraged by Vittorio Gui, and his Pasquale is mastery in characterization and delivery, right down to the slight tremolo in the voice, suggesting that so old a man is most unwise to take on a young wife.

Not that Mirella Freni's Norina sounds all that young.

Donizetti: *Don Pasquale* Freni/Winner/Nucci/Bruscantini. Philharmonia/Muti. HMV SLS 1434363 (two records), cassette SLS 1434365. Mozart: *Die Zauberflöte* Mathis/Ortiz/Araiza/Hornik/Van Dam. Deutsche Grammophon 410 967-2 (three Compact Discs).

The dark timbre that now shares the voice suggests that this Norina is slightly ashamed at the deceit she plays on Pasquale. Gosta Winbergh, heard at Glyndebourne, comes across as a surprisingly Italian and fluent Ernesto - perhaps Muti has been coaching him. Leo Nucci is a rather too sombre Malatesta until Bruscantini gets him going in "Cheti, cheti". But that is a tiny wart on a most desirable issue.



Mirella Freni: A matured voice for Norina for Don Pasquale

Humour is scarcely the strong point of Karajan's version of *Die Zauberflöte*, and Gottfried Hornik is not exactly the most engaging Papageno on record. But the rest of the cast, starting with Araiza's heroic and princely Tamino, are most impressive and a line up of Tomowa-Sinow, Balisa and Schwarz as the Three Ladies proves that the record was not exactly made on the cheap. On Compact Disc the Berlin Philharmonia under Karajan sounds majestic. But note that Philips's version under Sir Colin Davis, which will almost certainly reveal a very different approach to Mozart, is due in midsummer, including a CD issue.

One of the criticisms made of CD is the lack of playing time given on discs, or some of them at least, in view of their cost. No such charge can be levelled at Deutsche Grammophon's series of Walkman cassettes. I'd rather call them Drivenman cassettes, because Mahler's "Resurrection" may be fine for the M4 but it does not seem quite the thing for jogging round the square. That one is played by Kubelik and the Bavarian Radio Orchestra. Also recommended is the Beethoven Fifth and Sixth plus *Egmont* overture with Böhm and the Vienna Philharmonia. With a retail price of a shade under £3 and good quality these are bargain issues.

John Higgins

Rare richness of Bach cello

With a catalogue of recordings that includes Casals, Tortelier, Gendron and Harnoncourt, it seems extraordinary now that, until Casals, not one of Bach's solo cello suites had been played publicly in its entirety. The revelation about the latest addition to the catalogue from Yo Yo Ma is the essential unity of the six individual suites. It makes the entire boxed set unusually compelling.

The effect is rather like walking through a one-man exhibition at a portrait gallery: the distinct character of each suite is so vividly observed, and so well caught in its Prelude, that each image can then go on to inform and animate those before and behind it.

Within an equally rare balance of sophistication and artisan toughness, Yo Yo Ma gathers extraordinary sequential momentum in the first, only to contain it in the even, earthy bowing of the plain-speaking third. The fourth becomes a glowing centre, a chance to stretch the cello's muscles before the austerity of the fifth, its Sarabande as indivisible in its breathing of body and bow as I have ever heard.

Time and space wrench me away to Gidon Kremer's Bach - the A and E major concertos and, through the machinery of syncretization, an autotelic Double Concerto. Kremer's playing - fresh-minted, volatile, cleansing - always challenges the ear and perception; but here

Bach: Cello Suites Yo Yo Ma. CBS D337887. Bach: Violin Concertos Kremer/Academy of St Martin. Philips 411 108-1, cassette 411 108-4. Grieg: Peer Gynt (excerpts) Ameling/de Waart/SF Symphony and Chorus. Philips 6514 378, cassette 7337 378. Mendelssohn: A Midsummer Night's Dream (complete). Philharmonia/Marriner. Philips 411 106-1, cassette 411 106-4.

it really does sound as if the first challenge was simply how much it was possible to fit on the disc.

The extremely fast tempos, or rather the fact that they feel extremely fast, and an overobtrusive harpsichord make these facious, rather than invigorating performances.

Another, and more valuable,



Yo Yo Ma: Sophistication and artisan toughness

release from Philips is the only generally available recording to use the original Norwegian in excerpts from Grieg's incidental music for *Peer Gynt*. As Ely Ameling's strange and radiant "Solveig's Song" and Lullaby show, the vowel assonance and inflection count for a lot in the musical line - far more, indeed, than literal verbal comprehension.

What is more, the extracts come in the right dramatic order and, best of all, are captured in their essential miniaturism. De Waart finds in finely balanced tempos and textures, the intimacy of Grieg's own response to Ibsen.

Hilary Finch

IN THE GARDEN

Spring has a fling in the rock garden

The best time to see a rock garden is in the spring when there is much growth and many of the plants are flowering. People who live near London should visit those at Wisley and Kew Gardens, and there is another beautiful example created by the Alpine Society at the International Garden Festival at Liverpool, which opens on Wednesday. Rock plants will also feature in many of the festival's other exhibits.

As nearly all alpine or rock plants are grown in pots, planting can be done at any time during the spring. It should be completed before the end of May; summer planting is not a good idea because watering can be difficult - that is the main reason for failures.

Good preparation is essential. You must first do some homework to discover what the right conditions are for each plant. Does it need soil which is dry or moist, acid or alkaline? And what is the ideal site? Rock plants are quite small, so it should not be difficult to find pockets of soil to suit each

individual species: some, for example, do better in poor soil. Most alpine like to be in full sun, some do best in open positions on the north face of a hill, and so on.

Many popular plants, such as aubrietia and arabis, are found in all sorts of gardens, not just rock gardens; such plant types have few equals in providing large splashes of colour. Many of those mentioned below will be ideal for sink or trough gardens.

Some garden should have some plants which are deliberately situated in places where they stand out. In the rock garden shrubs do this. *Convallaria majalis* has silver foliage and white, funnel-shaped flowers; it is tender, likes a well-drained site and grows to about 3ft tall. *Potentilla fruticosa* Tangerine, which prefers a little shade is also about 3ft high and will flower through the summer. Rhododendrons are excellent: try *x* Blue Titi. Alternatives are *R. leucaspis* which has creamy white flowers, *R. racemosum*

with its smaller leaves and pink flowers, and *R. pemkense* which has mauve flowers. *Juniperus communis compressa* forms dark green columns about 18in tall. *Thuja plicata* Rogersii has tips of yellow to set off the green foliage.

The choice of rock plants is enormous. *Alyssum saxatile citrinum* is a ground coverer with yellow flowers, which should be used to balance the blocks of aubrietia and arabis. Campanulas come in many forms; I particularly like *carpatia* Jewel because of the size of the blue bell-shaped flowers. *C. portenschlagiana* is a good creeper but it may be invasive.

Gentians are great favourites which give class to the rock garden; they also come in many forms. *G. sino-ornata* has blue flowers, while the form *alba*, as its name implies, is white. *G. acutis* is worth a place and it needs a little room to establish itself. Geraniums are more vigorous but they can be magnificent in flower.

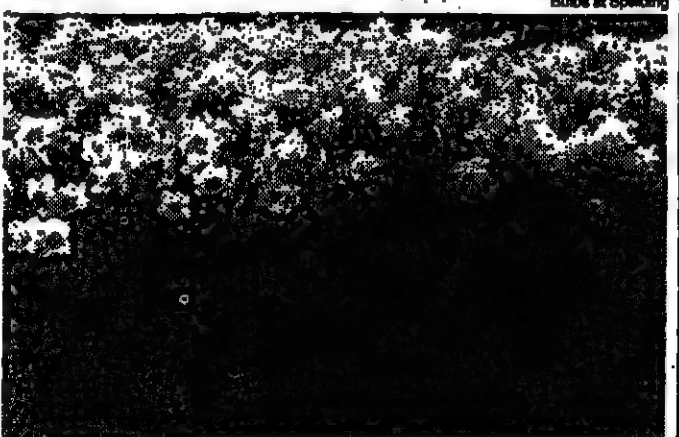
Helianthemums, often known as rock roses, trail or cover

ground and are a mass of colour when in flower. *H. Jubilee* is yellow, *Wesley Pink* lives up to its name, Ben Afflick is orange and Mrs Earle is red. They should be planted in full sun. *Levisia* also add a touch of class to the site because they look so regal in flower.

Sedums and sempervivums are two other large families which deserve attention. Sedums are inclined to be trailers, while most sempervivums are rosette-forming. Plants which make a show for most of the year include *Sedum kamuschatkense*, *S. sieboldii*, *S. spaldingii*, *S. purpureum* and *S. sibiricum*.

Sempervivums, or house leeks, are attractive garden plants as well as being good on the rock garden. *S. arachnoides* has cobweb-like leaves, *S. tectorum* Commander Hay, has red rosettes, *S. x Funkii* has green-tipped purple rosettes and *S. octopodopetalum* is green with maroon tips.

Ashley Stephenson



Bulbs of beauty

Tulips are at their best in the first two weeks in May, and it is an ideal time to look around to see what varieties you may like to add to your display next year. The best places in this country to see masses of bulbs at their peak is Springfields Gardens at Spalding, Lincolnshire, the showplace of the British Bulb Growers Association. Unhappily there are not as many bulb fields as there used to be, but Springfields is a riot of colour at the moment and it is easy to spend a whole day there. The garden is open daily until Sept 30, 10am-6pm.

Nearly all public parks departments also have extensive bulb displays and there is a greater tendency today to label varieties so that you can see at a glance the names of the ones you may like to grow yourself. Don't buy the same old varieties year after year - mark down the names for ordering later. A highlight of the Lincolnshire bulb season, the Spalding Flower Festival, is being staged next Saturday (May 5). You will need to be in position before 1.30pm for a good view of the procession, which this year has a "heritage" theme and will feature 20 floats and 10 marching bands.

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the bill today, Fri and May 5. New productions are featured in the other programmes: *Petrushka* with Bintley's Choros and the ubiquitous *Elite Synchronisations* (Mon, Tues); and Bintley's *Metamorphosis* with *Symphies*.



# Clair's comic clutter put to the sound of music

Orson Welles once produced a version of Labiche's stage farce *An Italian Straw Hat* under the button-holing title *Horse Eats Hat*. Indeed, the horse does — as will be evident tonight when René Clair's silent film version (made in 1927) receives a special screening at the Dominion Theatre, London, under the auspices of the British Film Institute.

But horses and hats are only two of many items that jostle together in this brittle satire about the nineteenth-century French bourgeoisie: the story of Ferdinand, a would-be bridegroom, features antique clocks, an ear trumpet, new light shoes, a stray white glove, and all the fussy paraphernalia of middle-class drawing rooms.

Tonight's presentation adds another element to the comic clutter: live musical accompaniment, especially composed by Benedict Mason, and first performed with the film at the Festival de Cannes in 1927.

No original score for Clair's comedy has yet come to light, although Jacques Ibert's prankish suite *Divertissement*, drawn from incidental music for a 1929 stage production, is well known and loved. Mason draws directly on Ibert, while other appropriate sources provide hints and echoes — French operetta, music by Erik Satie and members of the *Six*; there is also music from other French films by Clair, Jacques Tati, and even Jean-Luc Godard.

At Tyneside, the film was

presented alone; Londoners have the bonus of Satie and Francis Pacabia (deviseur of the ballet *Relâche*, to which *Entr'acte* formed an appendix) fire a cannon from a theatre roof; Marcel Duchamp and Max Jacob play chess. A ballerina dances away with a piece of cake; a funeral procession (with the hearse pulled by a camel) begins in slow motion and eventually speeds down a fairground's scenic railway.

Satie composed his music with mathematical skill and much dry wit, constantly varying the length of phrases to match the length of Clair's shots. Jesting, he called the results "pantomime". Pacabia himself thought the whole *Relâche* ballet provided "a lot of kicks in a lot of rears, sacred and otherwise"; with live musical accompaniment, the kicking power of both films should be wonderfully restored.

Geoff Brown

An Italian Straw Hat and Entr'acte are showing for one performance tonight at the Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (580 9562) at 7.30 pm. Music conducted by Alan Fearon. Tickets at £25 and £7.



Confusion reigns: Two wedding guests caught in a commotion in René Clair's *An Italian Straw Hat*, which gets a rare airing tonight

## Critics' choice

AND THE SHIP SAILS ON (15) Academy One, Oxford Street (437 2581)

All aboard the SS Federico Fellini for a symbolic ocean trip in the summer of 1914, with as assorted company of opera singers, politicians, Serbian peasants and anarchists, and one smelly rhinoceros. Farly brilliant, partly hilarious and partly tedious. Freddie Jones heads a popular, British-flavoured cast.

CARMEN (15)

Curzon (493 3737/8) Carlos Saura's second collaboration with dancer Antonio Gades and his troupe, *Rehearsals for a Flamenco-style Carmen* ballet are interwoven with a weak story of jealous love. Less potent than the magical *Blood Wedding*, but the dancing remains irresistible.

DANIEL TAKES A TRAIN (15)

Gate Notting Hill (221 0220/22 6705)

Director Pal Sander presents a gripping, multi-layered portrait of Hungary in December 1956, when old allegiances (to family, to country, to the party) are cruelly tested. Atmospheric photography; resonant performances by Peter Rado and Sander Zsoter as two young men heading towards the Austrian border.

THE DRESSER (PG)

Odeon Haymarket (930 2738) Odeon Kensington (602 6644) Classic Chelsea (352 5056)

Proficient screen treatment of Ronald Harwood's stage hit about an actor-manager and his dresser struggling through *King Lear*, despite Hitler's bombs, fractious actors, and crumbling health. The backstage atmosphere is usefully enlarged; Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay play with great theatrical panache. Directed by Peter Yates.

GREYSTOKE: THE LEGEND OF TARZAN (PG)

ABC Bayswater (229 4149) ABC Edgware Road (723 5901) ABC Fulham Road (370 2536)

Warner West End (493 0791) and on national release

The first film directed by Hugh Hudson since his much-garlanded *Chariots of Fire* contains the last screen appearance of Sir Ralph Richardson. A modest and interesting treatment of the original Tarzan novel lurks somewhere inside this wayward spectacular. Hudson never quite drags it out, though there is always something to watch, from the simian special effects to Sir Ralph's performance.

EDUCATING RITA (PG)

Classic Oxford Street (636 0310) Odeon Kensington (602 6644) Royal Charing Cross Road (930 6915)

Michael Caine and Julie Walters in Lewis Gilbert's award-winning film adapted from the stage play by Willy Russell.

FANNY AND ALEXANDER (15)

Camden Plaza (485 2443) Ingmar Bergman's Oscar-winning evocation of life, joys and terrors, staged with exceptional opulence,

beauty and lightness of touch. It was judged the best foreign-language picture.

THE LEOPARD (PG)

Gate Mayfair (479 781) Ends Mon, when the cinema closes

After 20 years, Luchino Visconti's beleaguered *Leopard* changes its spots and emerges uncut, with Italian dialogue and superior direction. A magnificent distillation of Giuseppe di Lampedusa's novel about nineteenth-century Italy in transition; the screen throbs with passionate acting, opulent decor and a fine Brucknerian score by Nino Rota. With Burt Lancaster, Claudia Cardinale, Alain Delon.

LIANNA (18)

Screen on Baker Street (935 2172)

A married woman drifts into a lesbian relationship with her night-school teacher — a situation presented by American writer-director John Sayles with tact, wit and clever use of modest resources. Marvellous lead performance from Linda Griffiths, Jane Halloran and Jon DeVries.

LIFE IS A BED OF ROSES (PG)

Chelsea Cinema (361 6742) Chelsea Cinema (361 6742)

Cheltenham's latest film defies clear categorization: a philosophical musical fantasy, perhaps, built round the themes of imagination, education, and utopian dreams. It similarly defies a clear response: the foggy ideas and crisp visuals variously provoke amazement, delight, irritation, and yawns. With Vittorio Gassman, Ruggero Raimondi, Geraldine Chaplin, Franz Arndt.

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Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (600 3899)

Until July 19, Tues and Thurs at 6.10pm

Not only British people make films in London: Antonioni made *Blow Up*, one of the key 1960s films, revived on Tues. The film on Thurs is far rarer: Peter Brook's lively 1953 version of *The Beggar's Opera*.

THE RIGHT STUFF (15)

Warner West End (493 0791)

Warner's novel about America's space pioneers, brought to the screen as a sumptuous, three-hour epic. The style veers between

irreverent comedy and worshipful, patriotic drama; compulsive viewing with sharp insights into space-race ballyhoo. It won a clutch of Oscars.

RUMBLE FISH (18)

Gate Mayfair (479 7842)

Francis Coppola's latest film defies all categories: a black and white fantasy about youthful hopes and alienation, shot with determined poetic intent and meshed with a riveting rhythmic score by Stewart Copeland from the rock group The Police. Featured players Matt Dillon and Mickey Rourke effortlessly merge into the crazy fabric of shadows, scudding clouds and surreal compositions.

SILKWOOD (15)

Odeon Leicester Square (930 6111)

The disturbing story of nuclear plant employee Karen Silkwood, dubbed by some "the first nuclear martyr" after her death in a mysterious car accident. Mike Nichols, returning to films after eight years, directs with modesty and sobriety; Meryl Streep gets off her high horse and gives an enjoyable life to a prickly, lower-class heroine. With Kurt Russell, Cher, Craig T. Nelson.

SWANN IN LOVE (18)

Lumiere, St Martin's Lane (836 5691)

Volker Schlöndorff's film merely dips into Proust's *À la recherche du temps perdu*, but therein lies its success. The episode of Swann's infatuation with the beautiful but

delicious Odette is conveyed with lucidity, calm, exquisite photography (Sven Nykvist) and a central performance from Jeremy Irons that expertly captures the melancholic elegance of Proust's bohemian Jew. Ornella Muti co-stars splendid support from Alain Delon as Baron de Charlus.

TENDER MERCIES (PG)

ABC Fulham Road (370 2536) Classic Oxford Street (636 0310)

Quietly released in 1983, Bruce Beresford's atmospheric drama returns to London boasting two Oscars. Robert Duvall was voted best actor for his portrayal of a former country-and-western singer coming to terms with himself and his past; the film was also judged to have the best screenplay written directly for the screen.

WHITE DOG (15)

Electric Screen (229 3684) Cinecitta Pantan Street (930 6631)

"What you've got there, Julie, is a four-legged time bomb!" says the heroine's boyfriend, eyeing a dog that ferociously attacks blacks. Luckily, Samuel Fuller's direction is far less bald than his script (derived from a book by Romain Gary); the film, made in 1967, steadily builds into an extraordinary, elegiac and moving anti-racist drama. With Kristy McNichol, Paul Winfield and Burt Reynolds.

The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Last changes are often made and it is advisable to check, using the telephone numbers given.

Coming to terms: Robert Duvall in *Tender Mercies*

in *Tender Mercies*

## PREVIEW Music

### Concerts

MANCHESTER YOUTH

Today, 7.30pm, Royal Northern College of Music, 124 Oxford Road, Manchester (061 273 4504)

Victor Fox conducts the Manchester Youth Orchestra in an uncommonly enterprising concert: Chocquet's *Mar, Bac's Morning Song*, Liszt's *Héroïde*, Poulenc's *Les Elches* and Wagner's *Flügel Overture*.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC

Today, 7.30pm, Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 6544)

Copland's *El Salmo Mexico* and *Redco*; Gerhart's *1st Got Rhythm Variations* and *Flügel Overture*; Ives's *America Variations* and Bernstein's *West Side Story*. Dances make up a lively programme by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Howard Williams conducts, and Gerald Robbins is at the piano in the Gerhart works.

CRAIG SHEPPARD

Tomorrow, 11.30am, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (835 2141, credit cards 930 9232)

Craig Sheppard plays both Chopin's big set of *Etudes* Op 10 and 25, plus a Bach prelude and Fugue. This is one of the Wigmore Coffee Mornings at which you get two refreshments after the recital.

IMOGEN COOPER

Tomorrow, 3pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 6544)

Imogen Cooper begins an otherwise wholly Austro-German recital with Janáček's *Marcello* in the Mist. Then comes Mozart's *Fantasia and Sonata K 467*, Schubert's *Sonata D 894* and Schoenberg's *Kleine Klavierstücke* Op 19.

LEOSOLDI ENSEMBLE

Tomorrow, 7pm, St Anne's, Gresham Street, London EC2

Bach's *Canzona No 87* *Halt im Gedächtnis Jesum Christ* and his Concerto for Flute, Violin and Harpsichord BWV 1044 and other pieces are played by the Leosoldi Ensemble within the context of a Lutheran service, as originally intended.

ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

Tomorrow, 7.15pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

As part of the Spohr bicentenary celebrations the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Ensemble perform the *Melancholia* of Richard Rodney Bennett, Schubert's *Octet D 803* and Spohr's *Octet Op 136*.

CONTEMPORARY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Tomorrow, 8pm, Almeida Theatre, 295 Upper Street, London N1 (353 4404)

In their opening programme as resident orchestra at the Almeida, the Contemporary Chamber Orchestra offer Gounod's charming *Pavane Symphonie*, Grieg's *Holberg Suite* and



Smiling through: Sophie Langdon rehearsing with the Contemporary Chamber Orchestra (Almeida, Tomorrow)

Stravinsky's *Dances Concertantes*; and Sophie Langdon and Sally Beamish solo in Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* for Violin and Viola K 364.

PHOENIX CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Mon, 7.30pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061)

The Phoenix Chamber Orchestra begin with Vaughan Williams's *The Waspe Overture*, followed by Elgar's *Mine*, and Darius Milhaud's *Seven Danishes Songs* (Alison Truett, soprano). Alexander Baillie solos in two rarities, Darius's *Caprice* and Elgar's *Invocation*.

BLOMBERG/KVAPIL

Tues, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall

The London premiere of de Jelen's *Lappocum* and de Frumier's *Elegiac Suite* for cello and piano are given by Lars Blomberg and Radoslaw Kwapil, who also play sonatas by Beethoven, Brahms and Shostakovich.

BIRGIT FINNILA/KYUNG WHA CHUNG

Tues, 7.30pm, Festival Hall

Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky Cantata* is sung by Birgit Finnila (mezzo) with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir.

ROBERT TAUB

Wed, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Robert Taub gives the European premiere of Milton Babbitt's *Canonic Form*, a considerable event. He also plays Beethoven's *Piano Sonata Op 31 No 2*, Chopin's *Prelude Op 28* and some Brahms.

BOURNEMOUTH SO

Thurs, 7.30pm, Theatre Royal, Plymouth (0752 669595)

The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform Martin's little-known Concerto for Two String Orchestras, Piano and Timpani (soloist, Philip Martin), Dvořák's *Symphony No 6* and the *Overture* and *Three Dances* from Smetana's *Bartered Bride*.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC

Thurs, 7.30pm, Festival Hall

Osaka Kamuro conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Saint-Saëns's *gigantic Symphony No 3* (John Birch, organ), Strauss's *Waltz* and Sibelius's *Violin Concerto* (soloist, Shlomo Mintz).

PHOENIX

Thurs, 7.30pm, St John's

Holst's seldom-performed *Lyric Movement* and Double Concerto for Two Violins are played by the Phoenix Chamber Orchestra with Ralph Holmes and Justine Watts as soloists. Also on the programme are Darius's *Legend* for violin and orchestra and Elgar's *Mine* and *Rosemary*.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Thurs, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (628 8785, credit cards 638 8891)

As part of a "Mozart in May" series, Jeffrey Osborne conducts the English Chamber Orchestra in the *Così fan tutte* Overture and *Symphony No 38*.

RAYMOND WILLIAMS

Thurs, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Guitarist Raymond Williams plays Funk Pearson's *Roh and Thusslegrath*, Fink's *Four Sketches*, Darius's *Americana*, Byrd's *Will You Walk the Woods* and the *West Side Story Medley*.

DE GAETANI/BOSSON SO

Fri, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall

Jan de Gaetani (mezzo) sings some live songs with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players: *He Is There*, *Down East*, *From Paracelus*, *Like a Sick Eagle*, *At the River*; and Ravel's *Chansons Madécasses*.

MARTIN/BOURNEMOUTH SO

Fri, Wyvern Theatre, Swindon (0753 34481)

Philip Martin solos in Martin's Concerto for Double String Orchestra, Piano and Timpani with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under George Hurst. Also on the programme are

EWART/WILLIAMS

Wed, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall

George Ewart (violin) and Adrian Williams (piano) give the world premiere of Carl Davis's *Variations on a Polish Gypsy Song*. They also play Prokofiev's attractive *Melodies Op 35*, two Paganini Caprices and sonatas by Bach and Beethoven.

ROCK & JAZZ

SHORTY ROGERS/BUD SHANK

Tonight, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (439 0747)

A partnership as redolent of the 1950s as Frank Tyson and Brian Statham, Armand and Michaela Denis or Mike Hennes and Peter Collins, Rogers and Shank entwine the flugelhorn of the former with the flute and alto saxophone of the latter in loving memory of West Coast jazz.

DAVID GILMOUR

Tonight, tomorrow and Mon, Hammermith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081)

While Roger Waters prepares the extravagant follow-up to the *Wall*, his former Pink Floyd colleague — and author of that remarkable guitar solo in "Another Brick in the Wall" — makes his own solo debut, promoting a rather unimpressive album titled *About Face*. Gilmour's band includes Mick Ralphs, from Bad Company, on guitar, and Rafi Zarganar, famous for his solo on Gerry Rafferty's "Baker Street", on saxophones.

DIONNE WARWICK

Tonight, tomorrow and Mon, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

A peerless popular singer ends her British tour. As usual, we now look forward to the product of her next visit to the recording studio.

DON McLEAN

Tonight, Oxford Apollo; tomorrow, Top Rank, Norwich; Tues, Middlebrough Town Hall; Thurs, Windsor Gardens, Bournemouth

Anyone who treats a Roy Orbison song kindly gets a welcome from me; and McLean also has the undimmed potency of "American Pie" in his repertoire.

PETER KING/DON WELLS

Tonight, But's Head, Barnes Bridge, London SW13 (876 5241)

A good opportunity to catch two of Britain's finest jazz saxophonists in action together. King's burnished bebop and Wells's deceptively strident style should set each other off beautifully.

R.E.M.

Tomorrow, Carica Club, Worthing; Mon/Tues, Marquee Club, 90 Wardour Street, London W1 (437 8643)

This highly rated Georgia band evokes memories of the impetuous guitar settings of the Searchers and the Byrds, making a pleasant contrast with much of today's calculated sterility.

THE CURE

Tomorrow, Birmingham Odeon; Wed, 90 Wardour Street, London W1 (437 8643)

I liked them better when their tunes were as greyly monotonous as their clothes: the present *Sixes* meets the *Stray Cats* approach seems to have found wider favour, however.

NENA

Tues, Manchester Apollo; Wed, Birmingham Odeon

Also recommended: Oh, Mr Porter (1937): Will Hay, Moore Marriott and Graham Moffatt foiling gun runners at a remote railway station; a classic British comedy (BBC1, today, 11.05pm-12.27pm).

Five Graves to Cairo (1943): Billy Wilder's Second World War spy thriller, with Franchot Tone as a British tank corporal and Erich von Stroheim as Rommel (Channel 4, today, 2.30-4.20pm).

War and Peace (1956): King Vidor's handsomely photographed version of the Tolstoy epic, with striking battle scenes; the humans, led by Audrey Hepburn and Henry Fonda, are less impressive (BBC2, today, 3.15-8.35pm).

Same Time Next Year (1978): Alan

## Graduating with lasting honours

Those who have not seen *The Graduate* (BBC1, tomorrow, 10.11.40pm) can be assured that it contains some of the funniest scenes ever committed to celluloid, while those who have seen the film will find its wit coming up as sharp as ever.

The graduate is Benjamin, cynical and insouciant and just out of college, who comes home for a celebration party in his honour at his parents' well-heeled home in suburban Los Angeles, finds himself uncomfortable in this swimming pool culture and looks for an escape.

It comes through the formidable wife of his father's law partner, who decides that Benjamin's education needs broadening, and seduces him. Benjamin is so bemused by the experience that even in their most intimate moments he persists in calling her Mrs Robinson.

It is a comedy of the highest quality, fashioned out of an intrinsically funny situation, beautifully scripted (Caldor Willingham and Buck Henry) and immaculately played by the film's principals Anne Bancroft and Dustin Hoffman.

Contrary to popular belief, this was not Hoffman's first film but the previous two were insignificant. When chosen for the part of Benjamin he was still a struggling stage actor who had spent nearly 10 years getting virtually nowhere.

He was recruited for *The Graduate* after being spotted by the film's director, Mike Nichols, in a production of Henry Livings' comedy, *En! It* took courage to gamble on an unknown but Nichols had spotted well and *The Graduate* made Hoffman into a star.

Anne Bancroft, now Mrs Mel Brooks and currently to be seen in her husband's latest farrago, *To Be or Not To Be*, will go down in movie history as one of Hollywood's most wasted actresses, a fine talent buried in years of B pictures before her Oscar-winning performance in *The Miracle Worker*. Since *The Graduate*, alas, has again been short of worthy parts.

After the Hoffman-Bancroft

## Films on TV



Learning about love: Hoffman meets Anne Bancroft

exchanges *The Graduate* has a sudden change of mood as Benjamin decides that true love lies with Mrs Robinson's daughter Elaine (played by Katharine Ross). From now on the film seems less sure where it is going and the eventual resolution of Benjamin's predicament is left, almost literally, in mid-air: to be more specific might spoil the picture for people who have yet to see it.

But if there is a falling off in inspiration, this is relative and the result is still a very fine film. What does not change throughout is the melodious quality of the Paul Simon songs, performed by Simon and Art Garfunkel.

Made in 1967, *The Graduate* owed much of its enormous box-office success to its ability to catch the flavour of the time, both in its sexual frankness and in the theme of youthful rebellion that permeated America during the 1960s and was to intensify in the following decade.











## THE WEEK AHEAD

## Today

**BELTON HOUSE SALE:** Seat of the Brownlow barons since the eighteenth century, Belton House has just been taken over by the National Trust and some of the contents are being auctioned. The 1,023 lots include superb seventeenth and eighteenth-century furniture, tapestries, a spinning wheel, pictures and porcelain. Christie's at Belton House, near Grantham, Lincolnshire (Belton 2876). On view today 10am-5pm. Sale Mon to Wed at 11am and 2pm.

**RUGBY UNION:** The finals of the English and Welsh club knockout competitions are being played today, each kicking off at 3pm. A Twickenham for the contest for the John Player Cup is an all-West Country affair between Bristol, the holders, and Bath, while Cardiff take on Neath at the National Stadium, Cardiff, to decide the Welsh Cup. Television highlights in Rugby Special, BBC 2, 8.10-9pm.

**FORTY YEARS ON:** Alan Bennett's first play revived for the Chichester Festival. See page 16.

**AN ITALIAN STRAW HAT:** René Clair's classic film comedy with full orchestral accompaniment. See page 17.

## Tomorrow

**CRICKET:** The Sunday afternoon 40-over thrash known as the John Player League starts today at Leicester, where Leicestershire, captained by the prospective England skipper, David Gower, take on Derbyshire, who are led by the youngest county captain, Kim Barnett. Play is being covered on Sunday Grandstand, BBC 2, from 2pm.

**BELGIAN GRAND PRIX:** The third race in the series for the 1984 world motor-racing championship is being fought out on the Zolder circuit, where the victor last year, Alain Prost, went on to finish a close second to the champion, Nelson Piquet. Prost has started this season in fine form, winning in Brazil and coming second to Niki Lauda in South Africa. Live coverage in Sunday Grandstand, BBC 2, from 2.20pm and highlights on BBC 2, 9.40-10.15pm.

**YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR:** The biennial competition for the country's most talented young instrumentalists reaches its final today. Those taking part are Lucy Parham, aged 18, performing Schumann's Piano Concerto; Richard May (16), Haydn Cello Concerto in C; Emma Johnson (17), Crussell's Clarinet Concerto; and Naomi Atherton (18), Mozart's Fourth Horn Concerto. The winner gets a trophy, £500 and the chance to take part in the European Young Musician of the Year next month. BBC 1, 7.45-9.45pm.

## Monday

**AFRICA:** After the socialised treatment of China in *Heart of the Dragon*, Channel 4 turns to the African continent for a new eight-part series presented by Basil Davidson. Archive film, dramatic reconstructions and the first-hand accounts of African men and women are used to explore the history and culture of an area where some of the great early civilisations had their origins. Channel 4, 9-10pm. Africa is also the subject of special events over the next nine months at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (03 4535/602 0702).

## Tuesday

**ESSEX FESTIVAL:** See page 11. The festival also includes drama, concerts, and exhibitions.

**SPRING PICTURES:** The Fine Art Society's spring exhibitions cover a wide range of subjects, nationalities and media. In London a Bakst costume design for Cleopatra nudges lens by Richard Doyle, and Mackintosh furniture stands next to a Morris and Company carpet. In Glasgow, paintings of a sunny Cassis and Kelvingrove Park ring about Mackintosh chairs for the Glasgow Willow and Ingram Street team. In Edinburgh, pictures of Naples, Sorrento and Venice by William Leighton Leitch mingle with views of Lindisfarne, Loch Ness, Dunbartonshire and other places. 148 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-629 5118); 184 Blythwood Street, Glasgow (041-332 4027); 12 Great King Street, Edinburgh (031-556 0305). All until May 31, Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm; Sat, 10am-1pm. Free.

**DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME:** Premiere of a new comedy by Patrick Cargill, who also stars, with Josephine Tewson and Terence Longdon. Roger Cresswell directs a tale of deception and misunderstanding. Thorncliffe Theatre, Leatherhead (0372 377677). Opens at 7.30pm, until May 12. Mon, Tues, Thurs and Sat at 7.30pm, Wed and Fri at 8pm; matinees this Wed at 2.30pm, May 5 at 4pm.

## Wednesday

**INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL:** The Queen opens what is claimed to be the biggest horticultural event ever staged in Britain. It is sited on 250 acres beside the river Mersey in Liverpool and has cost £20m. As well as examples of gardening from 30 countries, there are such attractions as a miniature steam railway, a Beatles exhibition and sculptures by Henry Moore, Allen Jones, Michael Winstone and Peter Logan. St Michaels, Liverpool 17 (051-246 8880). Until Oct 14, daily, 10am to dusk. Admission: adults £3.50, children and pensioners £2. Family ticket £9.

**THE COMEDY OF ERRORS:** Royal Shakespeare Company production from Stratford, directed by Adrian Noble. Jane Bookier, Paul Greenwood, Peter McEnery, Zoe Wanamaker, Richard O'Callaghan, Joseph O'Connor, Barbican (025 8795/638 8891). Opens today at 7.30pm, Thurs, Fri at 7.30pm, in repertory.

**LIFE'S A DREAM:** Another Royal Shakespeare Company transfer from Stratford. John Barton directs the adaptation by Adrian Mitchell and himself of Calderon de la Barca's 1644 comedy. Miles Anderson, Charles Kay, Barbara Kellerman, The Pit (025 8795/638 8891). Opens at 7.30pm, Thurs at 7.30pm, Press Night Fri at 7pm, in repertory.

**A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL:** Alan Ayckbourn's latest play gets its premiere at the usual theatre. A recently widowed man joins a local light operatic society and begins an affair with a woman member. Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, Scarborough (0723 370541). Opens at 7.30pm, Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm, in repertory.

**ON THE SPOT:** Edgar Wallace's 1929 gangster play of life in bootlegging Chicago comes to the West End in the Watford Palace production, adapted and directed by Robert Walker. Simon Callow, Shaun Curry, James Warwick, Sayo Inaba, Eva Lohman, Albany (838 3878). Previews today, Thurs, Fri, May 5, 7, 8, at 8pm (6pm and 8.40pm on May 5); matinee Thurs at 3pm, Opens May 9 at 7.30pm, Thurs, Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.40pm; matinees Thurs at 3pm.

**INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL:** The Wales/England game at Cardiff will be the last such fixture in the British Championship, which is being abolished after this season. Wales, with limited resources but no lack of application, could surprise an England team that is going through a poor patch. There is commentary on the whole match, Radio 2, from 7.30pm and television highlights, BBC 1, 10.20pm.

**SIX CENTURIES OF VERSE:** Sir John Gielgud presents and narrates the story of English poetry, from Chaucer to the present day, in a 16-part series compiled by Anthony Thwaites. The first eight programmes, which go up to the Restoration period and the Spring of the age, are being shown this afternoon; the rest will go on in the autumn. The distinguished group of readers includes Sir John himself, Dame Peggy



Wish You Were Here: sculptor John Clench's larger-than-life family soak up the sun at Liverpool's International Garden Festival. See Wednesday

Ashcroft, the late Sir Ralph Richardson, Stacy Keach, Lee Remick and Gary Watson. Channel 4, 9-9.30pm.

## Thursday

**ROSENTHAL:** The Rosenthal porcelain company has represented a sort of bridge between studio pottery and mass production. The company's special concern with design has produced many memorable shapes and decorations, reflecting the changing tastes of the Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods as well as the Bauhaus and, in postwar days, the vogue for Pop and Op Art. This centenary show has it all, and brings the story up to date with the designs specially commissioned from such as Vasarely, Paolozzi and Moore. Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 (059 6571). Until July 1, Mon-Thurs, Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 9.30-5.30pm.

**PEINTRES DE L'AMÉRIQUE:** Whitford and Hughes's sixth annual exhibition continues their special line of Symbolist art, but extends it to take in more conventional late-Victorian painters such as William Ernest Reynolds-Stephens and Paul-César Helleu. Belle Epoque society painter and other. It ventures even further into Post-impressionism with such as the little-known Dutch artist Kasper Niehaus and the Czech Kupka. Whitford and Hughes, 6 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1 (930 5577). Until June 8, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm.

**BUILDINGS OF BRITAIN:** The Royal Institute of British Architects celebrates its 150th anniversary with a festival aimed to encourage public awareness of buildings and their environment. Highlights include a masque at Hampton Court Palace (May 30). Today three exhibitions open in London: Six Young Architects at the Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square; Animals as Architects at the Natural History Museum; and The Work of Overseas Members of the RIBA at Guildhall Art Gallery. Festival headquarters: RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1 (580 5533). Until December.

**DUCAL SILVER:** Superb silver has been sent for sale today by the Duke of Northumberland and the Duke of Leinster. Northumberland's star item is the silver-gilt "Shield of Achilles", modelled by the great Neo-Classical sculptor John Flaxman around 1818. Leinster has sent his family collection of freedom boxes. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080), 11am.

**ONE THOUSAND GUINEAS:** The first classic of the flat-racing season is being run over one mile at Newmarket, with Joe Mercer, at 49 the oldest jockey on the flat, favourite to record his third win in the event on Mahogany. The race starts at 3.40pm and is being covered live on Channel 4 and Radio 2. In the 2,000 Guineas on May 5, the Irish-trained El Gran Senor is expected to mount a strong challenge to Laszlo Papp and Rainbow's Quest.

**THE GOLD DIGGERS:** A mocking, fantasy film by Sally Potter in which Colette Lafont, a lowly computer-puncher in a City bank, explores the secrets and rituals that lie behind the figures she types and encounters Julie Christie, a reluctant all-

purpose heroine. National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3322). Today at 6.15pm and 8.30pm, then in repertory until May 14.

**THE MISSION:** The Iranian Parviz Sayyad, exiled in the United States, wrote, produced and directed this interesting low-key film about a young man sent to Manhattan to assassinate an enemy of the Khomeini regime. Sayyad also co-stars with Houshang Tardue and Mary Apple. C&P Academy 3, Oxford Street (437 6819).

**OTHELLO:** The opening production of the Young Vic 1984 season has in Rudolph Walker the first black actor playing Othello in London for 20 years. David Thacker directs a company also including Brian Prothero as Cassio, David Calder as Iago, Kate Fahy as Desdemona. Young Vic (828 8363). Opens today at 7.30pm, until June 16, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm (not May 7 or 28); matinees Wed and Sat at 2pm.

**MORNING'S AT SEVEN:** Vivian Matalon (who directed it on Broadway) directs Paul Osborn's award-winning comedy of small-town America in 1922. Hollywood actress Teresa Wright is joined by Margaret Tyzack, Faith Brook, Peter Jones, Don Fellows, Alan MacNaughtan. Watford Palace (0923 25571). Opens today at 7.45pm, until May 26, Mon-Thurs at 7.45pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm; matinees May 19 and 26 at 2pm.

**CRIES FROM THE MAMMAL HOUSE:** Described as "an epic, funny, violent play and is not for the faint-hearted", this comedy by Terry Johnson traces the journey of a zoo on the south coast of England to Mauritius and back of an obsessed conservationist, who encounters a psychotherapist and an elephant among others. Roger Rees, Tim Roth, Mervyn Dymally, Corinna Sturning, directed by Phil Young. The Royal Court (730 1745). Previews today and Fri at 8pm, opens May 5 at 8pm, until June 2, Mon-Sat at 8pm (not May 7 or 28); matinees Sat (from May 12) at 4pm.

**EDWIN:** John Mortimer's "poignant comedy" has Sir Alec Guinness performing the world premiere of a Court judge who has nursed a long-standing suspicion that his wife (Renée Asherson) once had an affair with his old friend and neighbour (Paul Rogers). There are surprising revelations as the two men prepare for a lunch party to welcome the judge's son home from Canada. Channel 4, 9.30-11pm.

## Friday

**BRIGHTON FESTIVAL:** Music and opera from Poland and the cultural heritage of Brighton itself are highlights of the 17-day festival, directed for the first time by Gavin Henderson. Visitors from Poland include the Cracow Orchestra and the Warsaw Chamber Opera; Ballet Rambert is performing the world premiere of a work by Richard Alston; and Norman del Mar conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in *The Dream of Gerontius* by Elgar. Brighton associations are explored in the work of Graham Greene, Frank Bridge and Sir Roland Penrose. Official Office: Manchester House, Old Station, Brighton (0273 682127). Until May 20.

**CHINESE DELIGHTS:** Chinese furniture can be as simple and finely proportioned as the best Queen Anne or George I pieces. There are fine examples in today's sale, together with violently ornate pieces to appeal to the opposite taste. Also included are delightful paintings of flowers and birds on silk scrolls, still little-collected and cheaper than their quality deserves. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080), 10am and 2.30pm.

**THE DEAD ZONE:** Film of Stephen King's horror novel about a teacher who emerges from a five-year coma with a gift of second sight. Christopher Walken stars with Brooke Adams and Martin Sheen; directed in Toronto by David Cronenberg, whose earlier films (*Parasite*, *Scanners*, *Videodrome*) have earned him the nickname "Canada's Captain Blood". Cert 18. ABC Bayswater (225 4149); ABC Edgware Road (723 5901); ABC Fulham Road (370 2636); ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0332 8851); Classic Haymarket (938 1527); Classic Oxford Street (638 0310).

## Week following

MAY 5: Rugby League Challenge Cup final, Widnes v Wigan, Wembley; Rugby Union, Middlesex Sevens, Twickenham.

## Collecting

## No soft touch, but a mint of mischief



Not what she seems: Victoria as Una, made in Beirut

An overweight antique dealer, asked how he knew that the chairs he was buying were genuinely old, replied that the test was to sit on them; if they broke, they were old. For coins, alas, it is not always so simple, though dealers can acquire a "nose" for forgeries. A dealer who recently spotted a false medieval gold coin explained: "It feels too thick, the surface is too hard and there is no 'give' in the coin when it is squeezed." Laboratory analysis confirmed his view. In order to make up the correct weight of an original, but using less pure gold, the forger had made it thicker. And because the gold was less pure the coin was harder to the touch.

Today there is considerable trade in bullion coins - coins traded only for their metal content, with no pretence of any collectors' premium; but collectors of gold have to be just as wary as the specialist coin collector. Rush to your nest-egg of gold sovereigns and see if any are dated 1926. The Royal Mint in London never struck any.

There are genuine 1926 sovereigns, but they were struck at the branch mints in South Africa, and in Australia at Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. All those coins are most clearly marked on the reverse, on the ground-line beneath St George and the dragon, with the letters SA, S, M or P respectively.

If your sovereign has no such letter, the chances are that it was struck in Milan by José Beraba Zdravko, who, in the years just after the war, supplied a hungry market with his coins rather than the real thing. The premium paid for sovereigns, as against the gold he put into them, gave him a fat profit on each coin sold. Owners of these coins, however, can relax a little, for the Milan coins actually have more gold in them than is in the genuine article.

More recently, skilful forgers were made to order in Beirut, by a form of casting under pressure. The political turmoil in the Lebanon finally seems to have closed down the "mint". Many of the coins found their way to the Greater Manchester area and to London for sale to an unsuspecting market.

One offender was found with more than 80 specimens of the 1837 Jubilee £5 piece of Queen Victoria. Taken individually the coins would have fooled anyone, but there in the group was the original genuine "master" coin from which all the others were made, and that was to be his downfall.

Another forger from Beirut was the famous first £5 piece of Queen Victoria, dated 1839 and depicting her as Una with the lion. At that time, in the mid-1970s, the forgers were convert-



Money maker: Karl Wilhelm Becker, likable forger

Numismatic Anti-Forger Bureau (INAFB). It is directed by Mr E. G. V. Newman, formerly Chemist and Assayer (chief metallurgist) at the Royal Mint. The INAFB maintains international support, as well as that of the main London dealers, the British Numismatic Trade Association and the department of coins and medals at the British Museum.

## Daniel Fearon

Collectors and buyers of bullion coins are always advised to buy from reputable dealers to whom any doubtful coin could always be returned. Collectors suspecting that they might have a forgery or wishing to have a coin authenticated can now send it to the INAFB - but serious inquiries only - or write for a brochure detailing the scale of charges (from £3 to £50, depending on the insured value of the coin sent). The bureau emphasises that it will always give an opinion regarding authenticity - but it does not identify or attribute coins, grade them as to their condition or give any valuation. Contact: The Director, INAFB, PO Box 52, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4JR.

## THE TIMES GUERNSEY CARDIGAN

Specially selected for Times readers, this versatile Guernsey cardigan is both hard wearing and attractive. Made in 100% pure new wool, the cardigan incorporates those features of the "guernsey" design that make it immediately identifiable - ribbed sleeve insets and two small slit openings in the hem. To add to the continuity of the design the turtle neck, patch pockets and cardigan all bear the same ribbed pattern, which adds subtle elegance to this distinctive garment.

The strength and quality of the wool ensure that the wearer is warm whilst looking stylish. The cardigan is made in Guernsey for Times readers and comes in a choice of oatmeal or grey. Suitable for both men and women, the sizing is generous to allow room for garments to be worn under the cardigan.

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## Journey to silent vales of legend

When Sir Gawain rode to meet his Green Knight for a return match after Camelot, this was the path he took - or so the legend goes.

The bloodthirsty medieval romance appeared increasingly plausible as we rode towards the tree-veiled chasm of Lud's Church, a deep rocky cleft between mossy walls which has been suggested as the site of the Green Chapel, Sir Gawain's goal. Nearby, at Swythamley Park, is the supposed site of a medieval hunting lodge which was the Green Knight's castle.

We were riding in the Peak District, along the old packhorse trails of the Dane and Goyt valleys, close to the point where the three counties of Derbyshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire meet.

It is a part of the country that has aroused mixed responses. Sir Gawain thought of it as a most "perilous place", "savage and wild"; to Defoe it was a "howling wilderness". Sir John Betjeman, on the other hand, was struck by "such variety, colour and quality as is found nowhere in England". It depends which part of the Peak you are in. The Dark Peak, mainly north of Edale, characterized by its dark grüneous rock and banks of black peat and naked rock, can be sombre and forbidding. The White Peak, where we were and where dry limestone walls divide green meadows and pastureland, has a different atmosphere altogether.

What the Peak District does not have are "peaks" in the usual sense of the word. There are no mini-Everests, and although there is a great deal of wild and rugged moorland over 2,000ft, most of this resembles, as one guide book put it, a "half-used brown loaf stuck on its end and left out in the rain".



Riding high: Along the packhorse trail through the village of Flash, 1,500 ft above sea level

"Peak" district might be a more apt description. In fact the name comes from *peak*, Old English for "hill". Flash, our starting point for the ride, is a handful of weather-worn cottages huddled round a church, with one village store and pub. At 1,500ft above sea level, it is the highest village in England, and it felt like it. A biting wind was blowing which made my eyes stream, and there were flurries of snow, despite the April sun. The village's other claim to fame is its association with "flash money", the counterfeit money used by gypsies and to which the village

gives its name. Proximity to the counties in which to hide pursuit made Flash a favourite haunt of coiners and highwaymen.

The ponies at Northfield Farm matched the rugged scenery and the climate. These animals, with long woolly hair and shaggy manes (useful to hold on to), are sturdy and tough, and need to be. Liz and David Andrews introduced me to Danny, who was to carry me on my ride across the moors.

From the village our route took us through country lanes and moorland tracks, with little sign of civilization apart from a

few isolated farmhouses with their accompanying flocks of geese. It was not long before we reached our first gate. The ride is punctuated by gates, so until you have mastered the skill of reaching down from the saddle to stand still, be prepared for a lot of mounting and dismounting.

After about a mile we reached a dell where two streams (one is the Dane) tumble under a single-arched stone bridge. The valley here is deep, the scenery wild and rocky: the hollow is hemmed by bracken-clad slopes and heather, and a few trees. This is Three Shires Head, the

bridge marking the point where the three counties meet.

It is hard to imagine that the amount of horse traffic where these old packhorse routes covered was once so great that this now remote and disused bridge had to be widened. It was near here, in the quarries of the Goyt valley, that Thomas Pickford began his removal business by using his packhorses carrying paving slabs to London to transport other goods on their return journeys.

Farther downstream the Dane gushes into Fannier Pool, the name reminiscent of the bags slung on each side of the packhorses. Once the scene of boisterous cockfights, it is now a secluded glen, beautifully soundless except for the gurgling and gushing water and the calls of birds.

The track descends steeply, then ascends again, high above the valley. "By the time you reach this bit, you've learnt not to fall off", Liz said, as I stared, dizzily, into the sharp drop where the land falls away into the whirling pool below.

Across the valley to our right, we had a clear view of Swythamley Park, source of the Peak District's wild wallabies. Having escaped from the Brocklehurst family's private zoo during the war, and thriving on a diet of heather, bilberries, grass and scrub, the wallabies have survived and bred.

We paused at the next stream to let the horses drink before making the return journey, which is uphill all the way.

As well as running a riding school and working a hill-farm, with suckler cows and sheep and 60 acres of land, the Andrews offer farm holidays and accommodation in one of the converted stable blocks. It is a good way to round off a day's riding - curling up to the sounds of sheep at your bedroom window and the munching of hay in the stalls below.

Anne Whitehouse

## Out and About/Riding

Mike Arton

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## STOCK MARKET REPORT

# Index hits record 908 on economic optimism

By Michael Clark

Share prices ended the long three-week Easter account on a high note yesterday with the FT index rising 8.9 to a record 908.0 as investors again took an optimistic view on the outlook for the economy.

The scene was set overnight by the news that the Tokyo stock market had hit a high and another firm performance on Wall Street.

Share prices opened sharply higher in London and continued to improve throughout the day as almost £1,000m was added to the value of quoted companies. Dealers also attributed the continued rally to the better-than-expected first quarter results from ICI on Thursday. These showed pretax profits almost doubled at £245m and helped the FT All-Share hit a record, ICI rose 10p to 630p yesterday.

News of a fall in the number of people out of work was also treated as an added bonus. The FT-SE 100 closed 7.3 at 1138.2

Plessey 11p to 247p and Vickers 7p to 173p.

Profit-taking clipped 10p from Polly Peck at 304p still awaiting details of the proposed merger with Mr Asil Nadir's other two publicly quoted companies Wearwell and Cornhill Dresses. Some observers believe the terms could be announced as early as next week, although Polly Peck's interim figures are due out later in the month. Mr Nadir's associate company Strong & Fisher also lost ground sliding 10p to 161p, but Wearwell managed a small gain on the day at 140p, while Cornhill held steady at 265p.

In oils, the attention was focused on the small Irish explorer, Hopes of an early find in Colombia boosted Eglinton 11p to 156p and Bryson 60p to 475p. Rumours of an oil find also lent themselves to flurry of activity in shares of Brunswick Oil, up 8p at 34p.

The highest shares have been this year is 26p. Midland has seen profits since 1979 slip from a high of £2.4m to £442,000. Last night the board of Midland was unavailable for comment.

The big four English clearing banks spent a quiet session after the excitement earlier in the week. Barclays recovered an early loss to close unchanged at 304p, while National Westminster dipped 8p to 659p. Lloyds Bank on 659p, and Midland Bank on 399p were both unmoved.

Their two Scottish counterparts, however, enjoyed renewed support with Bank of Scotland climbing 20p to 672p and Royal Bank of Scotland advancing 22p to 244p. Broker Grieverson Grant has taken a fancy to both the Scottish clearers, which it describes as "more prudent and conservative" than their English counterparts.

According to Grieverson, this is an admirable attribute in the

Members of the Burton family yesterday placed 5.6 million of their shares in the Burton Group at 290p - a deal worth £1.6m.

The shares were placed by Caxone and Capel-Care Myers, Burton Group's brokers. The family has become less and less involved with the company's affairs and there is also a growing belief that all the high street multiples may have found the first quarter tougher going than expected. The shares were up 2p at 298p.

Lazard Frères in New York has popped up as advisor to US industries which is trying to fight off a \$531m (£380m) bid from Hanson Trust. "Mere coincidence," says Mr Marcus Agius, the director of Lazard Brothers in London, who helped with London Brick's sterling, though ultimately fruitless, fight against Hanson for months ago. "But you can be sure that our experience of Hanson is being put to good use," he adds. Lazard Brothers is 20 per cent owned by Lazard Frères in New York and Paris whose controlling partner, M Michel Davidweil, sits on the board of S Pearson which owns the other 80 per cent.

Grieverson Grant, the stockbroker, refuses to rule out the possibility that Trafalgar House may return later in the year with a bid for P & O and is probably behind yesterday's rise of 5p to a new high of 318p. Grieverson says P & O now has a clear future strategy concentration on the supply of transport services and sees pretax profits this year climbing from £56.7m to £67m and followed by £75m in 1985.

and the optimists now predict the FT index could hit 1,000 before the summer. The rise over the past three weeks is 32.6 and the previous best of 901.4 was achieved on March 21.

The Government shrewdly decided to use this new wave of optimism to raise more funds and before the official close of business the Government Broker announced a new "tap" £1,000m of Treasury 9 1/2 per cent 1989 after exhausting supplies of the remaining taplet. The new issue is being offered at £50 partly paid with the minimum tender price struck at £95.50. Existing gilt took the news in their stride, closing most unchanged on Thursday's levels.

Among leading equities BTR rose 15p to 484p, Blue Circle 7p to 438p, BOC Group 3p to 292p, Caratlands 2p to 153p, Glaxo 10p to 885p, Grand Metropolitan 6p to 332p, Imperial Group 2p to 148p, Lucas Industries 3p to 230p.

Shares of Midland Industries, the Wolverhampton foundry group, were suspended at 10 at the company's request pending an announcement. This was after Thursday's dramatic fall which saw the price almost

Interbank money opened on 8 1/4-7/8 per cent but went up to 9 1/4-9/8 when the authorities made only limited progress with an early round of help to the discount houses, coming off to 9-8 1/4, around midday.

It eased further to 8 1/4-7/8 in the early afternoon and then dipped to 8 1/4-3/4.

In the closing few minutes it plunged to 2-1 per cent before closing around 5-3 per cent.

The periods had another quiet session. Sentiment improved a little in the absence of any worsening of the situation in the coalfields, but dear

monthly conditions tended to lower the nearest dates a shade firmer.

Eurodollar deposits became quite active in the afternoon after the US trade deficit figures, but rates had already firmed in the morning and showed no further change.

By the end of the day the Bank had provided £693m of assistance: £413m by outright bill purchases at established intervention rates, £210m in purchase and resale agreements at 8 1/2 per cent to mature on May 21, and £70m via late, additional help.

Equity turnover on April 26, was £344,919m (20,505 bargains). The total number of British and Irish stocks traded was 230m. Gilt bargains amounted to 2,667.

## MONEY MARKETS

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## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

After relinquishing opening gains and losing more ground initially following the record US trade deficit, which exceeded most expectations, the dollar met renewed support and closed higher.

Dealers reported this trading conditions.

The pound fluctuated narrowly throughout, moving between 1.4070 and 1.3995 against the dollar before closing 15 points off at 1.4015, while its international value eased 0.1 to 79.7.

## TEMPUS

# Bank gambles on jumbo tap

It was clear from Thursday's rustlings in the forest that something was stirring in the gilt market late last week. On Thursday, the Government Broker suddenly cut the price of his Exchequer 10 1/4 per cent 1995 taplet by 1 1/4 points, and then followed this butchery on Friday by clearing out his short taplet.

The new stock certainly impresses for its size. A £1 billion issue, and the first fully-fledged new tap stock since February, Treasury 9 1/2 per cent Convertible 1989 is payable in two tranches - half of this coming on Wednesday, when the minimum tender price is 295 1/2 per cent, and half on June 4.

Features of the new stock include a safe looking first conversion date - April 1985 - by which time the American election will be long completed, and also at 2005, the longest conversion maturity option which the authorities have so far offered. Moreover, the authorities are trying to attract into their coffers around £1 billion in just over a month.

The latter point was enough to provoke the market late last night into a collective seizure which trimmed long prices by 1/4 point. In general, the Government Broker may be taking on the market at an unpopular time - May - as sterling slips and US bonds weaken. He is offering little or no inducement to buy the stock. As a short, the new tap is in line with the market on a gross redemption yield of 10.70 per cent, while as a long, it is merely a point or so less expensive than existing convertibles. Gimmicky, the traders snapped. Desperation selling they added.

Friday's £205m sale and repurchase deal with the houses could be seen as a form of underwriting to current yields, and it is possible that good United Kingdom trade figures this coming Monday might enliven sentiment. Most analysts, however, went home last night expecting a poor reception to the stock next week, followed perhaps by poor £M3 figures for banking April, and then perhaps, who knows? A Duke of York after higher base rates?

fulfilled. In addition Flight, having gouged out from the Hyndleigh deal just the divisions it wanted then swapped the unwanted residue of assets against £1.6m cash.

Balance sheet cash there, plus investments, is now probably close to £10m (20p a share), giving the group a useful cushion against possible cash flow aggravations on contracts as well as the flexibility to make any further acquisitions. Add back into the equation the shares 1981 purchase of the group's US licensees, which gave Flight a foothold in the world's biggest electronics giant in Embury, and the picture is not too bleak.

The key question now must be the scale and direction - perhaps even a reverse? - of the next major deal.

But the City is also starting to rhapsodize about the quality of earnings growth which may emerge in the next year or so. Hence pretax profit estimates for 1984 of perhaps £10m (£7.6m), to give earnings per share, on the actual tax basis, of 16p, may not be too wide of the mark. At 274p the projections, if correct, leave the group selling on a target multiple of 17, which is relatively undemanding.

## Sunlight

It seems bizarre with hindsight that just seven months ago Bregreen could have mounted a £31m takeover bid - mainly in shares - for Sunlight Services, its larger competitor in the commercial cleaning business.

Sunlight's advisors, Kleinwort Benson, said at the time that the value of the offer was based on "over-rated, PR-inflated paper" and that the "bubble would surely burst."

Indeed it has. Bregreen's abortive bid, worth 300p a Sunlight share at the time, with the collapse in the Bregreen share price since, be worth just 150p today. Sunlight shares are, meanwhile, trading at 243p and could have further to rise judging by the results yesterday.

Pretax profits just exceeded the forecast the group made when fighting off the Bregreen bid. They were £5.5m, against £2.81m the year before and look destined to rise to something approaching £4.5m in 1984.

Early indications are that the group will achieve its aim of making the £2.43m acquisition of the St George's linen-hire business break-even this year. In the 15 months before acquisition, it lost £1.9m.

Moreover, Sunlight's established linen rental interests should benefit greatly from the expected boom in the tourist industry this year.

The bonanza anticipated for private cleaning companies from the Government's policy of putting hospital, ancillary services out for contract is at best going to take far longer to materialize than analysts expected a year ago. But Sunlight's share price, unlike that of Bregreen, never had that bonanza-value built into it, so if privatization does prove to have any material benefit it can only be the icing on the cake.

Flight Refuelling seems to slot into a different category via its ability to link specialist expertise with basic commercial savvy. Part of the story lies with the successful acquisition last year of part of the Huntleigh Group. Using highly-rated paper, Flight not only acquired those parts of the Huntleigh business complementary to its own range of aerospace and defence business but all forecasts from both parties on the deal, including the higher dividend, have been

## Flight Refuelling

Over the years the market has learned to treat high technology companies with defence business fairly cautiously. Some concerns, looking good on the drawing board, have crashed on take-off as they succumbed to the Brabazon syndrome.

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## Pensions extra

Scottish Mutual has announced two new additional voluntary contribution plans to be added to its pension schemes for those who want to augment both retirement pension and death-in-service benefits.

For the first plan voluntary contributions are invested on a with-profits basis to secure retirement benefits. At retirement, the cash benefits can be used to provide additional cash or pension.

For the second, in addition to investing in a with-profits contract, the employee member can also have the option of having his contributions accumulated at a rate of interest linked to the building societies' mortgage lending rate. The rate of interest at 11 per cent is currently 1/2 per cent above the mortgage rate.

## Essex Equitable offer

For investments of £500 or more, per cent Essex Equitable Building Society is offering 7.50 per cent interest net (equal to 10.71 per cent gross) on its three year term shares. If the investment is withdrawn before three years, the rate reverts to that of the ordinary paid share rate currently 6.50 per cent (9.28 per cent gross). Further information: Essex Equitable Building Society, Telephone: Grays Thurrock 31515.

## Imperial Life bond

Imperial Life is introducing a five-year guaranteed income bond yielding 8.25 per cent, net of basic rate tax, equivalent to 11.725 per cent gross. The minimum investment is £1,000 and the net income is payable annually. Inquiries to: The Imperial Life Group of Companies, Tel: 0483 571255.

## Society spotlight

A small society's guide launched this week, called Building Society, shows that even after the recent cut in interest rates you can still get a good return from your building society.

Issue No 1 includes a spotlight on building society cheque accounts, how to choose an account and an investigation into "How safe is your money?" Building Society Choice is available from Research and Information, Rattlesden, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 0SF. An individual copy costs £3.95; a year's subscription (at least six copies) normally costs £10.95 but the launch offer price is £9.40.

## Income bond

R. J. Temple and Company is marketing a four-year guaranteed income bond yielding 8.5 per cent a year net, equivalent to 12.14 per cent gross for a basic rate taxpayer.

The bond, exclusive to R. J. Temple, is underwritten by Imperial Life Assurance Company and is available to any British resident between the ages of 18 and 80. The minimum investment is £1,000 and the maximum is £100,000 per person. Further information from: R. J. Temple Investment Services Division: 01-351 3353.

## Swinton expands

Swinton Insurance, the North's largest insurance broker firm has opened 10 new high street branches bringing their total to 102 offices throughout the North-West, Yorkshire and North Wales.

Swinton's chairman says the continued growth is due to working closely with the leading insurance companies to create and market new policies, while strengthening their client advisory and support functions.



## Halifax's garden plan

Halifax Building Society is to exhibit at the 1984 Chelsea Flower Show, emphasizing its commitment to brightening up city property. The Halifax supports inner-city regeneration and last year allocated funds for this from a special lending budget of £230m. This year it intends to increase this.

At the Show (May 23-25), the Halifax will show how to transform a drab back yard into a living garden which enhances the property and creates a relaxing retreat from city life. A new edition of Making the Most of Your Garden (one of the booklets in the Halifax Lifeline Guide series) will be available at the show.

## Improved loans

National Westminster Bank is enhancing and streamlining its Home Improvement Loan Scheme which enables customers to obtain finance at fixed interest rates over periods of up to 10 years.

The maximum loan has been increased to £30,000 in line with the limit to which customers can claim tax relief on interest payments. Optional insurance cover is also available to safeguard monthly repayments in the event of sickness or accident and full repayment in the event of untimely death.

The rate of interest is fixed at the outset enabling customers to budget their repayments.

Interest rates: 7-5 years Flat Rate 9 per cent, 6-10 years 10% per cent Flat Rate, which works out at an APR of around 18 to 19 per cent depending on the term.

## Cover for consumers

DAS Legal Expenses Insurance is launching a new consumer policy. The policy will pay solicitor's costs and expenses of up to £10,000 incurred in claims against manufacturers or shops relating to the purchase, sale, hire, purchase, repair or service of household goods. It will also cover claims arising from contracts for professional, financial or other services.

It will be sold only on a scheme or group basis, through insurance brokers and normally as an extension to an existing insurance policy.

A broker wishing to make this cover available to his clients will normally provide this by an "add-on" to an existing policy. Further details from: DAS Legal Expenses Tel: 0272 290321.

## New unit trust

M & G is launching a unit trust, the Japan Smaller Companies Fund. M & G has extensive experience in investment in the Far East and already manages two unit trusts specializing in stocks in this area.

The fund's objective is capital growth through investment in new industries and emerging companies in the technology sector. Minimum investment £500 with an extra 1 per cent allocation of units for investors over £1,500 and existing M & G unit holders. Inquiries to: Investment Manager 01-628 4588.

## Fire cost rises

Fires in Great Britain during March cost an estimated £44.8m a significant increase over the same month last year, bringing the total for the first quarter of this year to £115.1m.

The figures produced by the British Insurance Association include both insured and uninsured damage but do not take into account consequential loss or lost production, orders and exports.

## C &amp; G guarantee

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society claims to have removed the worry of under-insurance for its borrowers. New borrowers who take advantage of the society's buildings insurance arrangements or the C&G Homecover buildings and contents scheme will now have a guarantee that their buildings insurance will pay the rebuilding cost of their property in full, even if the amount claimed is more than the total sum insured.

Borrowers who have arranged their mortgage since 1979 and have taken advantage of the society's insurance arrangements will also benefit from this guarantee.

## House defects aid

The Housing Defects Bill outlines government proposals to help people who bought council homes that were later found to be defective.

Under the Bill, the owner of a house or flat which has been designated by the Secretary of State as defective, who purchased his property from the public sector before the defect of defects were known, will be eligible for financial assistance from his housing authority.

If the defective dwelling is a house, the main form of assistance will be a grant of 90 per cent of the approved cost of the reinstatement of the house, providing that the reinstated house would provide satisfactory housing accommodation for a period of at least 30 years. Assistance to the owners of flats will be by repurchase.

## Mortgage market

Building society lending accounted for 75 per cent of net mortgage advances in 1983, compared with just 58 per cent in 1982. Bank lending for house purchase declined by almost 30 per cent and their market share fell from 35 per cent in 1982 to just under 25 per cent in 1983, according to the latest Building Society News.

The banks became prominent in the mortgage market in 1981, but their lending expanded so rapidly that controls were imposed by most banks in the second half of 1982. In 1983, the banks were probably close to their desired position of obtaining 20 to 25 per cent of total net lending each year.

Another notable feature is that very few new loans are now made by local authorities, with the exception of loans to finance council tenants buying their own homes.

## TAX

## Computers can help to find rebates

The microcomputer has come to the aid of those who believe that they are paying too much tax. Two software programs have been devised to guide you through the minefield.

Both the Taxcalc pack designed for the BBC Model B Microcomputer and the Sinclair Which? Tax Calculator rely on the expertise of Which? offers its subscribers a guide to checking their tax bill. Many find they have paid too much and are able to claim rebates.

The computer program asks questions about income, expenses and personal expenses and then calculates how much tax the user should have paid in 1984/5. If the computer and the taxpayer do not agree there is an explanatory booklet which comes with the program to explain how the tax system works and how to claim a rebate.

The BBC Taxcalc pack costs £17.25 and the Sinclair Research pack costs £12.95.

## BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEMES

## Budget changes reduce attraction

As the new tax year begins, so this year's Business Expansion Schemes are being whittled out.

But since the Chancellor cut the highest marginal tax rate from a maximum of 75 per cent to 60 per cent in the Budget by abolishing the investment income surcharge, these schemes, which offer full tax relief on five-year investments at the investor's highest rate of tax, are slightly less attractive.

Last year about 30 funds were launched - but not all of them attracted enough money to get going, so some had to return investor's money.

The Budget specifically excluded farming as an industry which would qualify for BES tax

reliefs but other unusual activities such as horse breeding, rock groups and private hospitals are still eligible.

Most BESs are funds which spread their investments over five, 10 or 20 enterprises. The Singer & Friedlander 1983/84 fund invested £1.55m in seven small companies ranging from a company manufacturing housing for micro-electric circuits to a chain of petrol stations in the North of England and a replacement window installer expanding to make-up the windows himself.

Singer & Friedlander has already launched a 1984/85 fund which is looking for around £5m. The first fund

received more than 200 proposals from companies looking for funding in return for surrendering a stake in their enterprise. And the investment team still has four "leftovers" which are candidates for this year's scheme.

Mr David Courtman, one of the four-man investment team, is optimistic about this year's fund, and although the fund is open-ended he has reserved the right to close it if too much money rolls in.

"The fund is keen on low-tech enterprises where the team can understand what the business is all about. They like to go and meet the individuals involved. Most small businesses rely on

the enterprise and energy of one or two individuals, so the fund takes out insurance on the keyb men."

The Baronessmead 1983/4 fund was specifically a high-tech fund which invested £1.55m in nine companies working in computers and micro-electronics.

Baronessmead is also optimistic about the prospects for this year and has launched another fund looking for £4m. "We hope we are offering a portfolio of investments which would stick up even without the tax relief," said Mr Tony Shoebright of Baronessmead.

Vivien Goldsmith

## INVESTOR PROTECTION

## Commodity brokers draft compensation blueprint

Commodity investors nursing losses at the hands of unscrupulous commodity brokers can take heart: the formation of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers advances apace.

Now that the London Metal Exchange has agreed to participate fully, representatives from all five main exchanges are meeting regularly to thrash out rules, regulations and articles of association for London's first commodity regulatory body, to which unhappy clients of broking houses will have recourse.

Mr Nigel Back, full-time secretary of the AFBD formation committee, says: "It is impossible to put a date on when we can incorporate the association; it all depends on how consultations go and what form Professor Gower's Investor Protection Act takes."

But it does look as if the commodity boys may get their first glimpse of a preliminary blueprint of the articles of association in the next month or so.

What would hold back the launching of the association is how the big five agree to tackle such hotly disputed topics as segregated accounts and how to organize a compensation fund.

On segregated accounts the question is how can clients' accounts be kept separate? (This is where the now defunct Doford came unstuck). On compensation, it is best for some sort of insurance to be taken out? Or like the Stock Exchange, should there be separate contributions from individual broking firms?

One innovation which will be heartily welcomed by the too-often abused and continually



demused novice in commodity dealing, is some sort of commission structure. Some indication of what percentage of a broker's salary is derived from contract turnover as part of the code of conduct would not go amiss either.

At the moment it is impossible to tell whether commission charged for the individual investor for dealing services rendered is a tip off or not. Floor brokers charge 1/4 to 1/2 per cent of the value of the total contract for a complete buying/selling contract ("round turn") on average. But the commission houses, those dealing at arms length, often charge "whatever they can get away with", as one cynical broker put it.

Rudolf Wolff, long established and pukka commodity dealers, charge for example 1/4 per cent on metals round turn, and 1/2 per cent on lead and zinc. But for the same metals, some brokers have been known to charge as much as 2 per cent. Flat rates are charged for

potatoes (£25 for round turn for a non-exchange member is average).

Would you think that a brokerage fee of 5 per cent of the total contract value of rip-off? This is what LHW Futures charges its clients. Superficially it sounds steep but not outrageous. But bear in mind that because an investor in commodities has put down only a percentage (say 10 or 20 per cent) of the total contract price, what LHW is charging is 30 per cent of your investment if you have opted for a 10 per cent margin, or 25 per cent if a 20 per cent margin. Thus in effect three non-profit making contracts almost wipe out your total capital committed in fees.

An LHW director Mr John Hughes, explains that yes, it is probably the highest commission charged, but LHW is the only house that offers a guaranteed "stop-loss". Thus a client will not lose more than he has committed per contract.

Stop-losses can be taken out with any broker, but he can only promise to do his best to "close" (sell) the contract at the stop-loss level. In practice it is quite possible for the commodity price to tumble one day from a level well above the margin and trading to begin next day with the price well below.

When this happens the LHW broker will not call his client for extra funds. LHW takes the loss itself, hence, argues Mr Hughes, the high brokerage fee.

To what extent the high commission is justified, however, we will never know. Significantly, no one else offers a guaranteed stop-loss.

Mr Hughes comments: "We've had clients who have, for example, lost £5,000 and others who've made £50,000. We've been going four years and have between 3,000 and 5,000 clients at any one time which shows that commodities must be worth while even at this commission."

Commodities are not for the small investor, unless he can not only afford to lose his money but treats the loss, if it occurs, like a bet on the horses: a punt and nothing more. Of the brokers we contacted, Sunshine Mining of London said it would not take on a non-discretionary client with less than £15,000. LHW will take as little as £1,000 for a single contract so long as the investor has other equity; Merrill Lynch would not consider less than £30,000, while Rudolf Wolff likes £20,000 but would consider taking on as little as £5,000.

Hilaire Gomer

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## RETIREMENT

## Union starts campaign on pensions

By Vivien Goldsmith

Nalgo, the local government union, has launched a campaign to highlight the unfair treatment of women in pension schemes. Although it says that getting a common retirement age of 60 for both men and women is one of its aims, it is concentrating on more achievable ends.

The two main thrusts to its argument concern pensions for widowers and pensions for part-time workers. Nalgo's 780,000 membership is 51 per cent women, and the union believes that members would be prepared to pay higher contributions for greater pension benefits. However, it thinks the extra cost of providing spouses' pensions regardless of sex and offering part-time workers the option of joining the pension schemes would be so low that it might be possible to include these benefits under the present contributions pattern.

"Men die seven years before women so providing for surviving male spouses would not go on for long," said Mr Terry Standing. The cost would be around 0.2 per cent of payroll. But Nalgo would like to go further and provide benefits for a surviving cohabitee or adult dependent to take into account homosexual couples, heterosexual couples who live together but are not married and single people who live with an elderly parent.

Nalgo believes that only about 10 per cent of part-time workers would take up the option to be part of the pension scheme. At the moment anyone working less than 30 hours in local government is not eligible to join the pension scheme.

## Protecting your secrets from electronic prying eyes

The invasion of personal privacy by automatic data processing covers not only crucial market information - for individual sales or mailing shots - but also and especially employees' personal records. As an employee, however major or minor, your company or firm is likely to have details of your pay, personal and marital status, car, mortgage and other fringe benefits, performance assessment and the rest, neatly recorded, in letters or in code, on its computer. Conversely, if you employ others you are likely to keep an increasing proportion of information out of traditional, manual files and in computers.

Inevitably, this process leads to concern about personal privacy. Hence the European Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data. Nations that do not comply with this convention will be excluded from many international contracts which involve the cross border transmission of personal data.

To enable the United Kingdom to comply with the convention and to obtain its contracts, the Government has promoted the Data Protection Bill which is expected to receive the Royal Assent before the summer and to be brought into full effect within the following two years. Everyone concerned with his own money or anyone else's should at least know the basic protection which will soon be provided for the "data subject".

The legislation will impose new obligations on the "data user" and will not only create the new post of Data Registrar but give access to him and the courts to any data whose subject wishes to know what information others hold about

him on computer and who seeks remedy if a defect in that information may cause him harm.

You are a "data subject" if you are an individual whose personal data is held by some automatic process. The legislation provides protection for living individuals, but neither for the dead nor for non-human legal entities like companies or corporations.

"Data subjects" are people whose personal data is held and processed by "data users", who (in brief) store and process personal information by automatic method. Only automatic processing is covered and not information held by files or other traditional methods. Efforts by opposition parties to extend the scope of the Bill to manually held records have failed.

The convention deals with automatically processed data and the Government is sticking to the requirements of the convention.

If you are a data user, then you must comply with the eight "principles":

- The information contained in the personal data must be obtained and the data processed "fairly and lawfully".
- Personal data may only be held for one or more "specified" and lawful purposes. So the data user must decide in each case the purpose for which the data is to be held. He will have to master that purpose and use it for that purpose only.
- It will be unlawful to use or disclose personal data in any manner incompatible with the purpose or purposes for which it is held.
- Personal data must be "adequate, relevant and not excessive".

Personal data must be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date. So data users must examine, and where necessary, update and "purge" personal data.

● Data users must not keep personal data for longer than is necessary for the purpose.

● Data subjects will be entitled "at reasonable intervals and without undue delay or expense" not only to be informed by any data user whether or not he holds personal data of which he is the subject but also to access to that data and where appropriate to have it corrected or erased.

● Finally, both data users and computer bureaux must take "appropriate" security measures against unauthorized access to, or alteration, disclosure or destruction of, personal data and against its accidental loss or destruction.

Suppose, now, that you want to know who holds information about you which may affect your finances - or suppose that you know that data which is personal to you is held by (or for) an organization or employer. You will soon be able to ask for a print-out of the data and for an explanatory codes.

If it turns out that the data is inaccurate, you updated. And to be changed so that you if you lose along some defect in the data, then you will be entitled to sue.

● A special conference dealing with the data protection rules will be held and chaired by Mr Creville Jenner, QC, on May 10, 1984, in London. Details from: V. I. Adon, L.R.S., 68 Mayes Road, London, NW6. Tel: 328 4751.

Ewan Mitchell



FAMILY MONEY

PROPERTY

# Haggling over professional advice

Competition from conveyancing agencies, now being fought out by the legal profession, seem to be working in the homebuyers' favour.

Two years ago we wrote about Miss Francine Jordache who obtained estimates from four solicitors for buying her £23,000 flat. She was amazed to discover wide variations in fees quoted. The best estimate was more than £100 cheaper than the highest and the two solicitors concerned were within a stone's throw of each other in the High Street.

A similar exercise conducted this week reveals that it still pays to shop around, although solicitors seem to be much more aware of what their competitors are charging - and are more willing to negotiate over fees than ever before.

I rang four solicitors in the Fulham area of London, saying I wanted to sell a £50,000 leasehold flat and purchase a similar property for £77,000.

The best quote came from Mrs Amanda Davies of Carr and Mudie at 724 Fulham Road. She started off by saying it might cost about £850 plus VAT; land registry fees and stamp duty (but no other charges). However, she conceded that "we would do it probably for £775 if it were completely straightforward" and seemed quite prepared to trim her costs if it proved possible.

Stamp duty at 1 per cent would add an extra £770 to the bill, and land registry fees of £193 on the purchase brings the total to just under £1,900.

The most expensive was the quote from Mr Roger Wright Morris of Wright Morris & Co,

As the housebuying market moves into top gear, LORNA BOURKE finds that a little telephoning around reveals that homeowners can save themselves substantial sums on the cost of moving house.

81 Crabtree Lane, SW6. He thought the sale and purchase might work out at £200 to £1,000 plus VAT, land registry fees of £193 and office disbursements of about £50.

In between was the estimate from Mr Patrick Woodford of Blok Woodford, 70 Parsons Green Lane. He quoted £325 to sell the £50,000 flat and about £500 for the purchase. This included everything except land registry fees of £193 and VAT. Stamp duty would, of course, be extra.

The interesting point was that the difference between the highest and lowest quote was about £125 - the same as the differential on Miss Jordache's conveyance two years ago, but her overall quote was for a much smaller sum (about £200) so the proportionate difference then was much greater.

It is difficult to know what to conclude from the responses by chartered surveyors. Asked to do a full survey on the £70,000 flat, the three contacted all quoted almost exactly the same price. Either it was pure coincidence, or the chartered surveyors in Fulham are running an unofficial cartel.

Both Vera Berman of William Martin & Partners, 92 Wandsworth Bridge Road, and Mr Abbot Charles of Anley

Melville & Co, 853 Fulham Road, wanted to know how much the property cost before they were prepared to give an estimate which might indicate that they are working on a percentage basis.

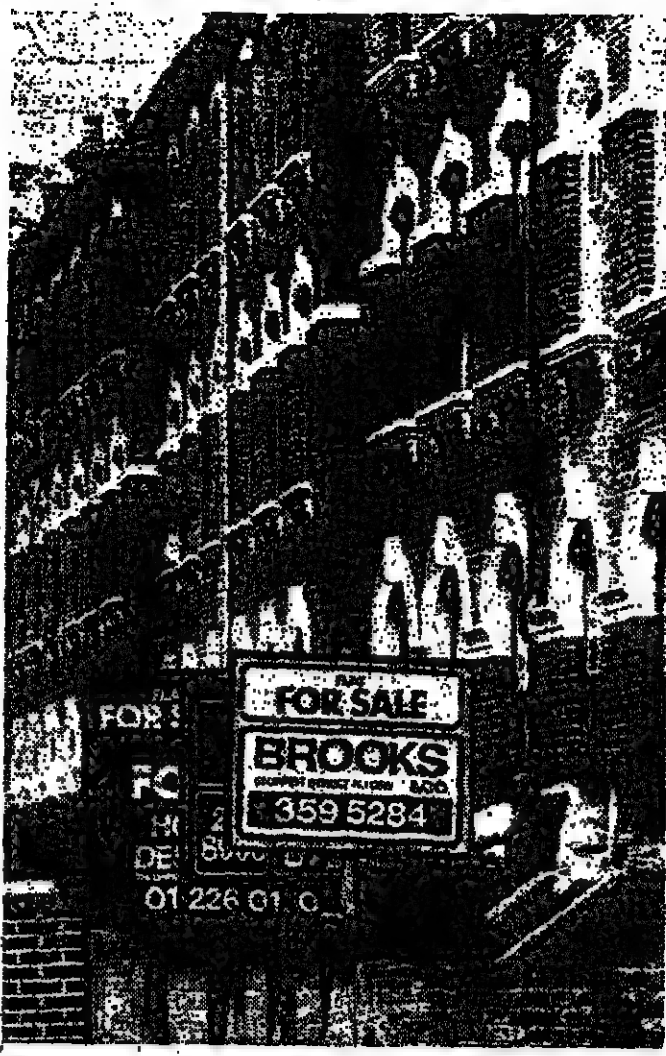
Both quoted a flat fee of £200 plus VAT, but Vera Berman said that this was a Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Flatbuyers Report which was a standard format, so this could be the explanation for the similar fees. Both said that a valuation would be included in the price of £200.

Estate agents in the area were much more rigid. All quoted exactly the same terms - 2.5 per cent of purchase price if they were granted a sole agency or 3 per cent if it were a general agency, shared with one or more estate agents. This seems high (it would work out at £1,500 for a general agency to sell the £50,000 flat or £1,150 for the sole agency) but none seemed interested in haggling.

Taking the best possible quotes for the conveyance, structural survey and estate agency fees, the total bill for selling the £50,000 flat and buying another for £77,000 comes out at around £3,400 or 4.4 per cent of the purchase price of the new property.

With the housebuying season now in full swing, the conclusion must be that the advice to shop around still holds good. And with the estate agents' fee being far and away the largest item of expenditure, it is worth considering alternative means of selling your property.

All the estate agents confirmed that demand for property is strong so it might be worth trying direct advertising



The properties may move, but some estate agents won't...

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CALIFORNIAN WINES

## Auction with size appeal is a chance for investors

For the fourth successive year St Helena in California's Napa Valley is hosting a wine auction of truly international appeal on June 17, preceded by vertical tastings (one vineyard through several vintages), horizontal tastings, vineyard luncheons and seminars.

Sponsored by the Napa Valley Vintners, this year's sale brings together 79 estates and almost 400 lots of wine. The funds generated benefit two medical centres and a community health clinic.

It is a chance to acquire mature Napa Valley wines, which is difficult in Britain. The oldest will be a 1941 Inglenook Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon. Unusual lots include a Louis Martini Special Selection of Cabernet Sauvignon (the main grape incidentally for Cru Classe Medoc) from the 1951, 1955, 1958, 1966, 1968 and 1970 vintages.

The Napa Valley nestles between two ridges of the Napa Mountains, the Mayacamas and the Napa. Lying 50 miles from San Francisco, the Valley's favourable microclimates and soils combine to produce wines

that have achieved world renown since the first estates were planted in the late 1800s.

The auction offers a record number of oversized bottles, which allows greater maturation potential. They include five nebuchadnezzars (20 bottles each), such as 1982 Cabernet Sauvignon from Far Niente, its first since Prohibition).

Reboboams (six bottles' worth) double magnums, magnums, imperials, (eight bottles), jerooboams (six bottles of light wine or four of sparkling) and salmanazars (12 bottles) are also on offer.

It is likely that there will be keen demand for special lines such as Beringer's hand-blown nebuchadnezzar of 1980 Private Reserve Lemmon-Chabot Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, the double magnum 1983 Sauvignon Blanc from Cakebread Cellars, and Domaine Chandon's salmonazar of Napa Valley Brut Special Reserve.

Indeed, vintners donate many rare and cherished wines for the cause of the auction and this attracts the investor. Unlike British wine auctions, this one will follow the practice of the

Burgundian Hospices de Beaune sale by offering wines on a "barrel future" basis. A barrel means 20 dozen bottles, split into lots of one to 10 cases. The purchaser of the first lot from a given barrel has the option to buy the balance of that barrel at the same bid price.

The barrel futures include 1982 Clos du Val Cabernet Sauvignon, 1983 Deer Park Summit Late Chardonnay, 1982 Louis M. Martini Pinot Noir, 1982 Round Hill Zinfandel (a grape unique to California) and 1982 Rutherford Hill Merlot.

The auctioneer is Mr Michael Broadbent, Master of Wine, from Christie's London Wine Department. The bidder's fee is US\$125, (£90), which entitles one to register one guest at \$75.

Auction catalogues, which are included in the price of the bidder's registration, are available by sending US\$30 to the auction coordinator: Miss Shirley Knudsen, Napa Valley Wine Auction, P.O. Box 141, St. Helena, CA 94574, USA.

Conal Gregory

## INITIAL OFFER FROM M&G

# JAPAN

## SMALLER COMPANIES FUND

Japan has one of the most dynamic and innovative economies in the world with a reputation for outstanding success in advanced technology, electronics and new products. M&G has built up considerable experience in the Japanese market over many years and has developed a close relationship with Japanese institutions through regular visits to Japan and the Far East.

The sole objective of the new M&G Japan Smaller Companies Fund is capital growth through investment in companies with stock market capitalisations of up to 30 billion Yen (£90 million), including a limited proportion of Over-the-Counter stocks. It will cover all aspects of the Japanese economy in an active and adventurous manner, identifying new industries and emerging companies.

Investors must be prepared for wide price fluctuations and should be aware that where the rewards from successful investment are high the risks are high also. The Managers have the power to buy and sell currency to protect the Fund against fluctuations in exchange rates. Yield will not be considered when selecting investments but the initial gross yield is estimated at 0.1%.

Unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

During the initial offer (closing 11th May), applicants for £1,500 or more, and all existing M&G holders, will receive an extra 1% allocation of units.

Applications will be acknowledged and Certificates will be posted on or before 8th June 1984. Once the initial offer has closed units can be bought or sold on any business day at the price then ruling by writing to or telephoning M&G (Unit Dealing Department), Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 01-283 5362.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Accumulation units and Income units are both available. Income on Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value. Holders of Accumulation units will receive an annual tax voucher starting in June 1985. Distributions on Income units will be paid net of basic-rate tax on 10th June and 10th December, starting with an interim distribution on 10th December 1984. Prices and yields will appear daily in the FT. Unit holders will receive a registered certificate for their units, issued by the Trustee, and a Managers' Report every six months. Management charges: A preliminary charge of 5% of the value of each unit issued is included in the price and an annual charge of 3% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund will be deducted from the Fund's gross income; under the Trust Deed the Managers have power to increase this to 1% in the future, but they have no present intention of doing so. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. A copy of the Trust Deed may be inspected at the head office of the Trustee

or at M&G's London office. Auditors to the Fund: Deloitte Haskins & Sells. Taxation: The Fund does not pay tax on capital gains. Income is distributed (or retained) net of income tax at the basic rate. The Fund is a wider-range investment under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961, and is authorised by The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for the units to be admitted to the Official List. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc. M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ.

## INITIAL OFFER CLOSES 11th MAY

During the initial offer, which will close on 11th May 1984, existing M&G unit-holders will receive an extra 1% allocation of units. This extra allocation is also available to new investors of £1,500

or more. The Managers reserve the right to decline subscriptions at any time and you are recommended to apply as soon as possible, but in any event applications with cheques must reach us by 11th May 1984.

To: M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ.

Please invest £ in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued; we recommend that you invest in Accumulation units) of The M&G Japan Smaller Companies Fund at 50p each (minimum investment £500). My cheque, payable to M&G Securities Limited, is enclosed. APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE CHEQUES.

Are you an existing M&G Unitholder? YES/NO

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SURNAME		
04	ADDRESS	
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SAVINGS PLAN You can build a holding in units from £20 a month with no commitment. Tick this box for details.

Registered in England No. 90776. Reg. Office: as above. (This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland)

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London W1A 0AA.

**MEMORIAL SERVICES**  
**IN MEMORIAM**  
MRS. MARGARET J. BAKER  
Died 24th April 1984, aged 82.  
Born 19th April 1902.  
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. BAKER.  
Wife of Mr. J. BAKER.  
Mother of Mr. & Mrs. J. BAKER.  
Gravestone: St. Paul's Church, London.  
Funeral: 28th April 1984, 11.00 am.  
Burial: St. Paul's Church, London.

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KINGSTON - On April 27th, a daughter to Mr. & Mrs. J. BAKER.

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## Ambassador and staff fly out of Tripoli

From Tana de Zulueta  
Tripoli

Mr Oliver Miles, the British Ambassador in Libya, flew out of Tripoli with his staff at 7.30pm local time, yesterday, after a two-hour delay caused by last-minute diplomatic hitches.

Earlier, Mr Miles had lowered the Union Flag at his residence out of sight of the press, saying that although "I naturally have feelings about the flag of my country, it is just a symbol".

Two British employees of the Embassy will be left in Tripoli to take care of British interests under the protection of the Italian Embassy. They are Mr Redmond Norton and Mr George Anderson, the British consul.

It was thanks to the confidence established after the successful repatriation of diplomats' families that negotiations for the withdrawal of diplomatic staff in Tripoli were speeded up, enabling him to prepare to leave Tripoli yesterday afternoon.

Yesterday morning the Ambassador had a last meeting with Dr Ali Traiki, the Secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, the Libyan equivalent of foreign minister. Mr Miles said the meeting was cordial, and that "we are both looking to the future in the hope of maintaining good relations".

The British interests section at the Italian Embassy was agreed yesterday. There will be a similar section for Libyans at the Saudi Embassy in London.

Speaking at the Embassy residence before leaving for the airport, Mr Miles said he was very disappointed at having to leave Libya. He had made a number of friends during his four months' stay, and those friendships had proved invaluable during the present crisis.

Mr Miles regretted that he was leaving Libya with three British citizens still held in custody here. He said one appeared not to be a "routine" arrest - that is, not an arrest associated with drink or a motor accident or financial fraud.

Mr Douglas Ledingham was picked up at the British Caledonian airport office to which he had just been appointed as manager in Tripoli last week. The British consul has not been able to visit him.

## Libyans leave with secret of policewoman's killer



Last exit from St James's: The siege ends and the Libyan delegation sets out on the first stage of the journey home



## Cabinet was warned of Libyan gun squad

Continued from page 1

on Thursday, March 1, that Libyan exiles could face attack the following day, the seventh anniversary of the Libyan revolution.

Special Branch and the anti-terrorist squad were put on full alert, and Libyans were specifically reminded of the Regent's Park mosque raid, on April 11, 1980, when a Libyan journalist was murdered and shots were fired at police pursuing one of the attackers.

In the event, March 2 passed without incident, which would explain why Mr Brittan referred to the lack of information that the St James's Square incident "would occur when it did".

It is understood that a second intelligence "intercept" in which Libyan People's Bureau personnel were ordered to defend the building, fire on demonstrators and create disturbances with bombings in public places, was not decoded in time. That would explain why Mr Brittan referred to the lack of specific information "before the event".

[In Washington a senior Administration source said this second intercepted message, sent by cable from Libya shortly before the St James's Square shooting, "may be a story of missed opportunity" (Christopher Thomas writes). The source stressed that it had not been the Americans who had received their information from the British.

Nevertheless, the first intelligence warning and the London and Manchester bombings could have alerted Whitehall to order priority surveillance of Libyan communications and could have added heightened significance to a warning by the bureau about the St James's Square demonstration, delivered on April 16.

When asked in the Commons, by Mr Eddowes Griffiths, the Conservative consultant to the Police Federation, whether that warning had been passed to Scotland Yard, the Home Secretary replied: "Libyans came to the Foreign Office protesting about the demonstration to take place the following day and speaking in terms of not being responsible for the consequences."

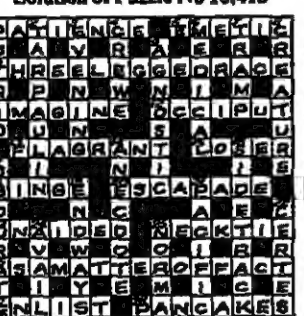
Mr Brittan added: "Such language has been repeatedly used by the Libyans in that context."

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution to Puzzle No 16,410



Solution to Puzzle No 16,415

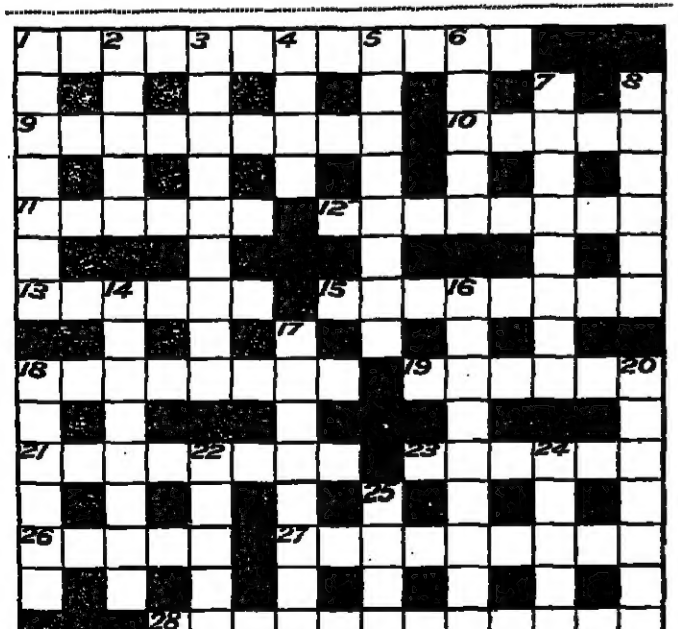


The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,416

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions entered next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Miss M. G. Atkinson, 1 Infirmary Terrace, Broyde Road, Chichester; Geoffrey England, 25 Ferncroft Avenue, London, NW3; K. J. Shanahan, 9 Old Farm Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_



- ACROSS
- 1 Kind of picture it is not difficult to see through (13).
  - 9 Rex starting to edit account of astute prince (5).
  - 10 Swiftly written down as a beastly type (5).
  - 11 One dedicated to religion, though of worldly appearance (6).
  - 12 Cleansing of lab, within and without, as arranged (8).
  - 13 Filled, perhaps, but point taken (6).
  - 15 Sexy, and can be divine in a cliché (8).
  - 16 PR aims at new order for smoked beef (8).
  - 19 Support stoppage, using influence over the province (4,2).
  - 21 Plant providing interest on capital put up by architect (8).
  - 23 Riverside location of gold deposits (6).
  - 26 Diminutive characters in Greek literature (5).
  - 27 Narrow-minded, like much medieval writing (9).
  - 28 He couldn't top the salt pouring out (7,5).
- DOWN
- 4 Empty carriage and pair, perhaps (4,3).
  - 2 Striking surface found inside Palladian villa (5).
  - 3 Studio frame-up? What a lie! (9).
  - 4 To underwrite bill I had to provide £sd, d'ye hear? (4).
  - 5 Entitled to directions on how to turn blonde (8).
  - 6 American car manufacturer's company uprising (5).
  - 7 Preside over plot from seat planned for retirement (5,3).
  - 8 Make sharp attack upon Reform Church (6).
  - 14 Departure of London trains? They arrive under their own steam (8).
  - 16 Unmanned aircraft for which there is a divine use (9).
  - 17 Admission of one exhausted by surprise attack (8).
  - 18 Harbour authority needs police force to provide calm (6).
  - 20 What the bride says, in a saucy context, is a gem (7).
  - 22 One of five is unaccountable (5).
  - 24 Though unrefined, it is well-produced (5).
  - 25 Home town of the Forty Thieves? (4).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 19

### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
The Duchess of Kent attends the Concerto Finals of the 1984 BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition, Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 7.15.

### Last chance to see

Giacometti's Paris, an Arts Council touring exhibition, Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells, 9.30 to 5.  
Julia Margaret Cameron Exhibition, John Hansard Gallery, The University, Southampton, 10 to 6.  
Pier Arts Centre, St Leonards, Orkney, 10.30 to 12.30.  
One Day in the Life of A Picture by Anthony Green, Perth Museum and Art Gallery, George Street, Perth, 10 to 12.15.  
Edward Weston, one of Guildford's most popular artists, Guildford House Gallery, 155 High Street, Guildford, Surrey, 10.30 to 4.50.

**Databases and Bulletin**, a display showing the range of services available through the marriage of the computer and the telephone, Technical Library, Central Library, St Nicholas' Way, Sutton, Surrey, 9.30 to 5.

**Drawing and Sculpture**, Gaudier-Brzeska, Mercury Gallery, 2/3 North Bank Street, The Mound, Edinburgh, 10 to 1.

**Paintings and Drawings** by Anne Carlisle, The Arts Council Gallery, Bedford Street, Belfast, 10 to 6.

**Selected works from the Annual Spring Exhibition of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours**, Mid Cornwall Craft Centre and Galleries, Biscovey, Par, Cornwall, 11 to 4.

**Rugs and hangings for Walls and Floors**, Festival Gallery, 1 Pierpoint Place, Bath, 11 to 5.

**New exhibitions**  
Exhibition by Harry Snook "Artist's Choice", Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until June 10).

**Departure of London trains?** They arrive under their own steam (8).

**Unmanned aircraft for which there is a divine use (9).**

**Admission of one exhausted by surprise attack (8).**

**Harbour authority needs police force to provide calm (6).**

**What the bride says, in a saucy context, is a gem (7).**

**One of five is unaccountable (5).**

**Though unrefined, it is well-produced (5).**

**Home town of the Forty Thieves? (4).**

**CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 19**

Haanel Cassidy photographs; Scottish Photography Group Gallery, 105 High St, Edinburgh; Tues to Sat 12.5 to 6 (closed Sun & Mon, ends May 26).

**Music**  
Bromsgrove Festival 1984 - Concert by the London Mozart Players, North Worcestershire College, Southside Hall, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, 7.45.

Concert by the Newcastle upon Tyne Bach Choir, Queen's Hall, Haddington, 8.

Diocesan Choral Festival, Rochester Cathedral, 5.15.

Concert by The Witton Choral Society and the Essex Youth Orchestra, St Peter's Church, Coggeshall, 7.30.

Concert by the Bourne-mouth Symphony Orchestra and Sinfonietta, Memorial Centre, New Milton, 7.30.

**Voens Music** Concert by Mrs Arunthathi Sri, Buddhist Centre, Oakenfold, Farmoor, Oxford, 8.

**General**  
Harrogate Spring Flower Show, Valley Gardens, Harrogate, N. Yorks, 9.30 to 5.

**Alpine Garden Society Show**, Greentown Agricultural and Horticultural College, 22 Greentown Road, Andover, Hants, 12.

**Vintage Vehicles Rally**, Castle Park, Bangor, N. Ireland, 1.

**Display of traditional crafts and rural skills** - blacksmithing, spinning and weaving and pottery, Ulster-American Folk Park, Carrishill, Omagh, N. Ireland, 10.30 to 4.30 (also tomorrow).

**Tomorrow**  
**Royal engagement**  
The Duke of Kent, as President, attends the National Scout Service, Windsor Castle, 2.15.

**Music**  
Concert by Bourne-mouth Sinfonietta, Media High School, Newport, Isle of Wight, 2.30.

**Recital by Julie Wynne (soprano), Aled Jones (treble), Robert Wynne (baritone)**, Bangor Cathedral, Bangor, Gwynedd, 7.30.

**Gardens open**  
**TOMORROW**  
Cambridge: King's College Gardens; bulbs, trees and other interesting plants; 2 to 6.

**Cheshire: Barnett Brook, Aston**, on Nutt; small garden, specializing in alpine and other interesting plants; 2 to 7.

**East Sussex: Weddicote House, St Helens Avenue, Hastings**; 4 acre woodland garden specializing in camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas; Sun-days until June 10; 2 to 6.

**Glamorgan: Coedgarraig, Newbury**; Portbawt trees, shrubs, herbaceous, bulbs, rock, water and vegetable gardens, greenhouses; 2 to 7.

**Hereford and Worcester: Speckley Park, Worcester**, 3m SE of Worcester on Stratford-on-Avon road A422; rare and uncommon trees and shrubs, spring bulbs, garden centre with plants for sale; 2 to 5.30.

**Northamptonshire: The Cottage, Charlton**, on Banbury off A41 at Aytho or 2m from Faringdon on A422; daffodils, narcissus and tulips; 2 to 6.30, also jointly, Holly House, Charlton; walled garden, good collection of daffodils; 2 to 6.30.

**Shropshire: Mawley Hall**, 2m NE of Cleobury Mortimer on A4117 between Bewdley and Ludlow; fine old trees, lovely spring garden, bulbs, flowering shrubs and herbs; 2 to 6.

**Suffolk: Gifford's Hall, Wickhambrook**, nr

**Newmarket**, off A143 between Bury St Edmunds (9m) and Haverhill (9m); bulbs, herbaceous plants, shrubs; 2 to 6.30.

**Yorkshire: Netherwood House on A65 Ilkley-Skipton road**; spring flowers and streams and ducks; 2 to 6.

### Roads

**Wales and West: M4** Lane closures between junction 21 and 22 across Severn Bridge, both carriageways; also speed restrictions throughout weekend. A390: Cornwall, temporary lights. A4042: Gwent, temporary lights. A4042: Gwent, temporary lights. A4042: Gwent, temporary lights.

**MIDLANDS: M1** Contrail between junctions 16 and 18 (Watford gap, M45 junction) serious delays. A38: All traffic sharing southbound carriageway between Watford Island (A61 junction) at Alfreton and Motoway (M1) roundabout at junction 28, nr Matlock, Derbyshire. A143: At Stole, Norfolk; temporary signals, delays.

**The North: M62** Manchester: Outside lane of Eastbound carriageway closed near junction 12 (Spencer interchange). Liverpool: Queensway Tunnel closed nightly. Traffic diverted via Liverpool Wallasey Tunnel 9.15pm-5.45am. A628: South. Yorkshire: Improvement work to Thurnscliffe River bridge, single lane traffic.

Information supplied by the AA.

### Anniversaries

**Births**: Edward IV, reigned 1461-70, 1471-83. Romen, 1442: James Monroe, fifth president of the USA, 1817-23. Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1758: Charles Sturt, explorer in Australia, Bengal, 1795; Anthony Ashley Cooper, seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, social reformer, London, 1801; Frances Hodgson, painter, Dundee, New Zealand, 1869.

**Deaths**: Sir Charles Bell, anatomist, North Hallow, Worcester-shire, 1842; Beato, Massolito, executed, Italy, 1895; Captain Cook landed at Botany Bay, naming the country New South Wales, 1770.

**TOMORROW**  
**Births**: Sir Thomas Beecham, St Helens, Lancashire, 1879; Malcolm Sargent, Ashford, Kent, 1895; Duke Ellington, Washington, 1899.

**Deaths**: John Cleveland, poet, London, 1658; George Fothergill, dramatist, London, 1707; Constantine Cavalli, poet, Alexandria, Egypt, 1933.

### The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.50	1.50
Austria Sch	27.90	28.30
Belgium Fr	31.00	31.00
Canada \$	1.85	1.78
Denmark Kr	14.41	13.71
Finland Mkk	8.34	7.94
France F	11.97	11.47
Germany DM	3.50	3.72
Greece Dr	156.00	146.00
Hongkong \$	11.34	10.74
Ireland Pt	1.28	1.22
Italy Lira	2405.00	2305.00
Japan Yen	332.00	316.00
Netherlands Gld	4.43	4.21
Norway Kr	11.30	10.70
Portugal Esc	197.00	187.00
South Africa Rd	2.88	1.93
Spain Pta	216.00	205.00
Sweden Kr	11.64	11.04
Switzerland Fr	3.24	3.07
USA \$	1.44	1.39
Yugoslavia Dnr	194.00	179.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes: Bank of England, Bank of Scotland, Bank of Ireland, Bank of Montreal, Bank of New York, Bank of Paris, Bank of Rome, Bank of St Petersburg, Bank of Vienna, Bank of Zurich.

Exchange rates for the pound sterling, as at 11.00 am, Saturday April 28, 1984. Rates for the pound sterling, as at 11.00 am, Saturday April 28, 1984.

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### Weather forecast

Pressure will remain high near the British Isles.

6am to midnight

London, Midlands, Wales, NW, Central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Dry and sunny, with variable light; max temp 20-25C (68-78F).

SE England, Central S, Channel Islands, SW England: Dry and sunny, with variable light; max temp 20-25C (68-78F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mainly dry and sunny, with variable light; max temp 18-20C (64-68F), but cooler on coasts.

E Anglia, E, NE England, Borders: Mainly sunny and dry, with variable light; max temp 17-19C (63-66F), but cooler on coasts.

Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Sunny with developing coastal fog patches at times, with variable light; max temp 17-19C (63-66F), but cooler on coasts.

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### NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars

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